Welcome to CyberNorth's November Newsletter

CyberNorth is working to support the growth and development of the whole cyber security community across the North East region. Find out more below and make sure you sign up so you don't miss out on key events and fun activities!

Building on the Minister's Visit

Following the visit to the region at last month's #CyberFest by Viscount Camrose, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for AI and Intellectual Property, as well as DSIT's representative in the House of Lords) a range of proposals was put together for possible funding from DSIT.

This presents the region with a number of great opportunities to support the growth of the sector. The final list included:

- Innovation Zone development
- Ex Vets Employability Programme
- Influencing the influencers resources and roadshow
- Cyber leadership programme
- School defenses improvements
- Business impact ransomware exercise
- Prioritisation roadmap
- Penetration testing offer
- Privacy mapping focussing on IoT

We hope to hear the outcome from this exercise soon.

The 4th Pan-Cluster UKC3 Event

CyberNorth joined its cyber cluster colleagues at the UKC3 pan-cluster meeting in Birmingham in October. Newly appointed cluster lead, Danielle Phillips and CyberNorth Chair, Annabel Berry, joined the 15 other UK cyber clusters to share, learn and collaborate around all things to do with running a successful cluster.

We were keen to share our experiences of #CyberFest, being the only UK cyber cluster to run a month-long festival. We also learned about UKC3's new strategy, took part in workshops to share knowledge of event planning and ecosystem development, and heard from a University of Birmingham academic talking about the future of AI and cyber security.

You can find the UKC3's strategy and how CyberNorth plays its part here.

We came away with lots of plans and ideas to drive forward with other clusters. Stay tuned for more details on that in 2024!

CyberFirst Conference

Last month saw us pass a major milestone with the inaugural North East CyberFirst Education Conference, led by our partners from RTC North and National Centre for Computing Education.

The event, held at The Catalyst in Newcastle, brought together a healthy mix of education and industry delegates, with the primary purpose of raising visibility of the role of industry in helping inspire awareness of cyber security in schools.

Talks from Nik Kelsey, of Kings Priory School and the region's CyberFirst education stakeholder leader, the NCSC CyberFirst team and Jon Holden, CISO for Atom Bank were followed by workshop activities from ROCU (Regional Organised Crime Unit), CyberFirst and Sage (capture-the-flag exercise).

Overall, this was a great first CyberFirst conference for the North East of England, with a wonderful venue (and catering), enthusiastic presenters and attendees, with plenty of opportunities to network and make enquiries of how to get more involved.

More background information about CyberFirst and how a cyber security professional can become a Cyber Ambassador can be found via the following link:
CyberFirst – CyberNorth

Launchpad Funding

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, is to invest up to £2 million in innovation projects. UK registered businesses can apply for a share of this for projects that grow activities in the digital technologies cluster in north east England.

The aim of this competition is to support outstanding innovation projects led by businesses. Your business must be active or growing work activities in the digital

technologies cluster in north east England, consisting of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, and County Durham.

The projects will contribute to north east England's ambitions to build a more productive region, fostering a competitive and embedded business base and solving social and economic challenges.

Competition opens: Monday 30 October 2023
Competition closes: Wednesday 13 December 2023 11:00am

Further details can be found here: [Launchpad](#)

Empower

EmPowerCyber North East 2023 will host 1,200 Year 8 Girls from schools across the North East. 40 local and global organisations, charities and

universities will run hands on interactive cyber security and technology related activities.

The key aims of the event are to educate and inspire the students about cyber security and technology, demonstrate to them the type of companies working within the sector, introduce them to a range of different people working in the space, and hopefully inspire them to consider careers within the industry.

November Events

As always there are plenty of events going on across the region. November continues to be a busy month though December is expected to be quieter. Keep checking our events page for the latest updates and let us know of any events that you are planning so we can shout about them too:

- ISC2 North East England Chapter November 2023 Meeting – 10 Year Anniversary - 7 November at Barclay's Eagle Lab. Tickets

- Industry Insights: Reflecting on the Impact of AI - 9 November at Newcastle University Business School. [Tickets](#)
- ANME NE02 – North East Meeting 2 - 17 November @ ITPS Chester le Street. [Tickets](#)
- Cyber Intelligence Alliance – Transformational Security - 23 November at Port of Middlesbrough. [Tickets](#)

Get Involved

If you work, study or are interested in cyber security then CyberNorth is your community. Do get involved!

MANY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

- Come along to our events and encourage others too
- Volunteer to speak at an event, write a blog post or take part in our podcast
- Give us content for the website, including your own organisation's events
- Amplify our message by commenting on, reposting or liking our social media
- Suggest ideas for future initiatives

- Encourage your colleagues to become part of CyberNorth
- Tell people outside the region about what is going on

About CyberNorth

www.cybernorth.biz

CyberNorth is the region's cybersecurity community, supported by Accenture, UK Cyber Cluster Collaboration and recognised by the Department for Science, Information and Technology (DSIT) and the National Cyber Security Centre as representing the region. It is part of the UK Cyber Cluster Collaboration (UKC3) and Global Epic.

CyberNorth is working to support all organisations across the regional cybersecurity ecosystem including cybersecurity service suppliers, consumers of cybersecurity services, academia, government, other public sectors including blue light organisations, media and policy makers.

Our aim is to position the North East as a great place to deliver cybersecurity services.

Contact us

If you would like any further information on the contents of this newsletter, or any other related issue then please contact us at **hello@cybernorth.biz**