Welcome to CyberNorth's April 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!

Cyber Leaders First Cohort

Cyber Leaders first cohort passes with flying colours

The first eight aspiring cyber leaders have now completed our inaugural CyberNorth Cyber Leaders programme. The group, representing private and public organisations across the region, benefited from a fully funded four day taught programme focused on leadership, mentoring, communication and networking skills.

The four day-long programme held at the Maldron Hotel in Newcastle offered delegates the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zone and develop leadership skills to help them as they progress their careers. In between their weekly in person sessions, they also benefited from online 1:1 executive coaching to help consolidate their learning and reflect on key issues.

At the conclusion of the course, one delegate said, "The course took me from a techie, to a techie with real leadership skills".

Thanks to support from DSIT's Cyber Local funding which made this course possible.

Our cohorts in Darlington and Durham later this Spring and Summer are also fully funded and fully booked. We will however be offering this programme for a fee from Autumn and will shortly be taking bookings.

Keep an eye out on socials for more information or contact danielle@cybernorth.biz for details.

Welcoming DBT's cyber team

On 21 March, we welcomed a delegation from the Department of Business and Trade led by the UK's cyber security advocate, Juliette Wilcox. Keen to learn more about the region's cyber businesses and share information about international trade opportunities, DBT joined a selection of regional cyber businesses to share knowledge and learn.

Naturally, given the links to Newcastle United, there was lots of discussion about Saudi Arabia and the opportunities there for regional businesses. DBT is extremely supportive of working with us to foster the ties and help support North East businesses who want to know more about trading with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

To that end, we are now working with DBT to host a Doing Business with Saudi Arabia online workshop on 3 May, 10:00 to 11:00. We're currently finalising details, but we can now take bookings if you'd like to come along to this free workshop.

Please note, this is an open event for businesses at all stages of their export journey and those who are interested in finding out more about opportunities with Saudi Arabia.

CyberFirst Programme Update

Last month saw a celebration event held at RTC North's Sunderland office, for the CyberFirst North East Girls Competition. There were lots of activities and challenges delivered by the team and supported by industry partners Atom Bank, Virgin Money, Waterstons, and Northumbria Police. Kelly Whitfield, Founder and CEO of KLIK UK, delivered the inspirational keynote speech.

Well done to the winning team from Valley Gardens Middle School!

Recent weeks have seen a marked uptake in interest from the region's cyber security community in becoming involved with the North East's CyberFirst programme, which included positive conversations with Sunderland University, and HTG which already provides active support for local South Tyneside schools and charities.

In his capacity as CyberFirst Ambassador, Andrew Pounder participated in the mock careers interview day at Dame Allan's School, which gave the students valuable

interview experience across a range of industries and associated volunteers at the event. Lunchtime saw a mini careers fair held in the library, where students were able to come along and ask questions about cyber security and other industries.

This is a great example of how CyberFirst Ambassadors can help make a difference and raise the profile of cyber security for the younger generation.

A dedicated Teams channel has been set up for our region's registered CyberFirst Ambassadors, to be used as a platform to informally request/respond to enquiries related to North East CyberFirst schools, as well as a repository for sharing content that could be useful to the other Ambassadors. If there are any of our local CyberFirst Ambassadors who have not yet seen an invite to join the Teams channel, please email andrew@cybernorth.biz who will follow up on their behalf.

April sees the next gathering of panel members (a mixture of education and industry, including Andrew from CyberNorth) to select the next cohort of North East England schools that have already expressed an interest in becoming a CyberFirst school. This will bring the number of CyberFirst schools to 25+, which makes it even more vital for continued encouragement of our region's cyber security professionals and companies to become NCSC CyberFirst Ambassadors, in order to support these schools adequately.

UKC3 pan-cluster

CyberNorth continues to play an active role in the UK Cyber Cluster Collaboration (UKC3), which unites regional Cyber Clusters, fosters collaborations and empowers knowledge exchange, supporting the growth of the UK's cyber security sector.

In the last three years, UKC3 has gone from representing half a dozen clusters to 17, including new clusters in Kent, East Midlands and London. All of the clusters came together at UKC3's regular pan-cluster meeting, this time held at De Montfort University in Leicester.

The pan-cluster event is a really useful way of sharing experiences and learning from what the other clusters are doing. This event was focussed primarily on financial sustainability following four years of funding from the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology.

You can find out more about the work of UKC3 here.

It's Cyber Up North

CyberNorth's latest podcast in its series 'It's Cyber Up North' will be released this week. Episode 22 looks at reducing the human risk in cyber security thorugh the role of Security Champions. Phil Jackman will be joined by Kimberley and Kaye from Sage, to record the episode at its offices at Cobalt, in what will be a lively and interesting conversation.
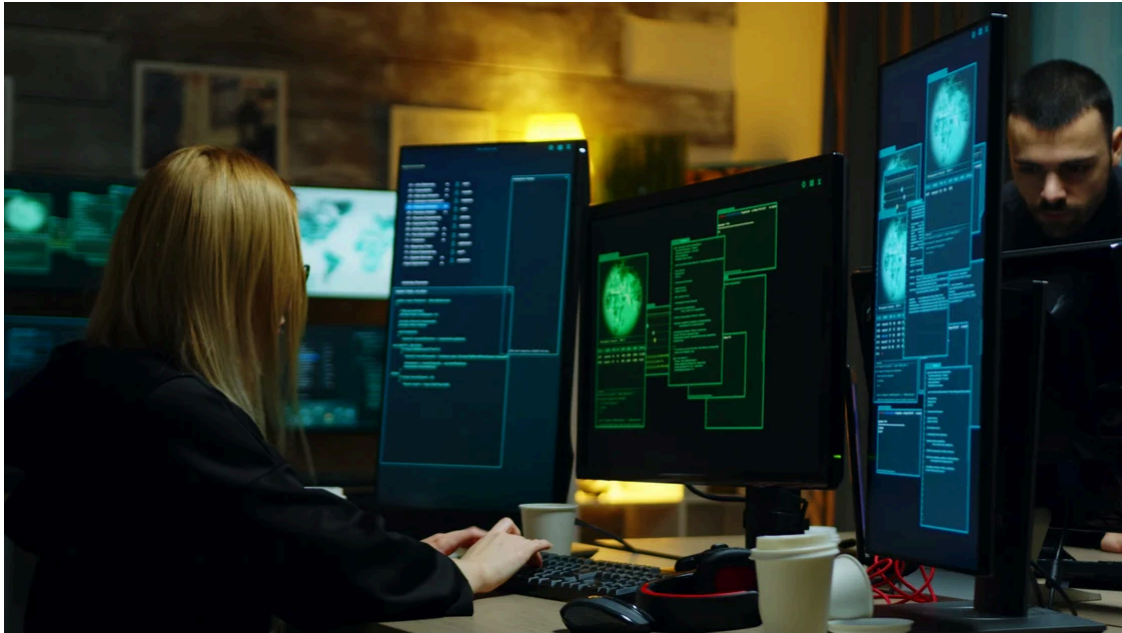
The aim of the CyberNorth podcast is to raise the conversation around cyber security within the region, covering subjects as diverse as IoT, gender inequlity, Low-code/No-code, managed service providers, the CyberFirst programme and cyber insurance. At around 30 minutes, they are an ideal way to catch up on the commute into work.

We're always on the lookout for intersting topics for the podcast and so if you are interested in taking part, or have a suggestion for an episode, please get in touch through mailto:hello@cybernorth.biz.

All episodes can be found here or where you normally get your podcasts from.

April Events

For once, April is quite a quiet month with Easter taking up the first two weeks though May is shaping up to be another busy one. New events are added all the time so keep checking the website for new additions:

- **18 April -** Start of the Innovation Centre at Salvus House, Durham
- **18 April -** Be a fast fish - Advantex seminar
- **2 May** - CyberSips: Public & Private Sector Collaboration

Don't forget, if you have a cyber security related event, CyberNorth is happy to promote it. You can get in touch via hello@cybernorth.biz

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
- Provide content for the website, including your own organisation's events
- Amplify our message by commenting on, sharing 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**