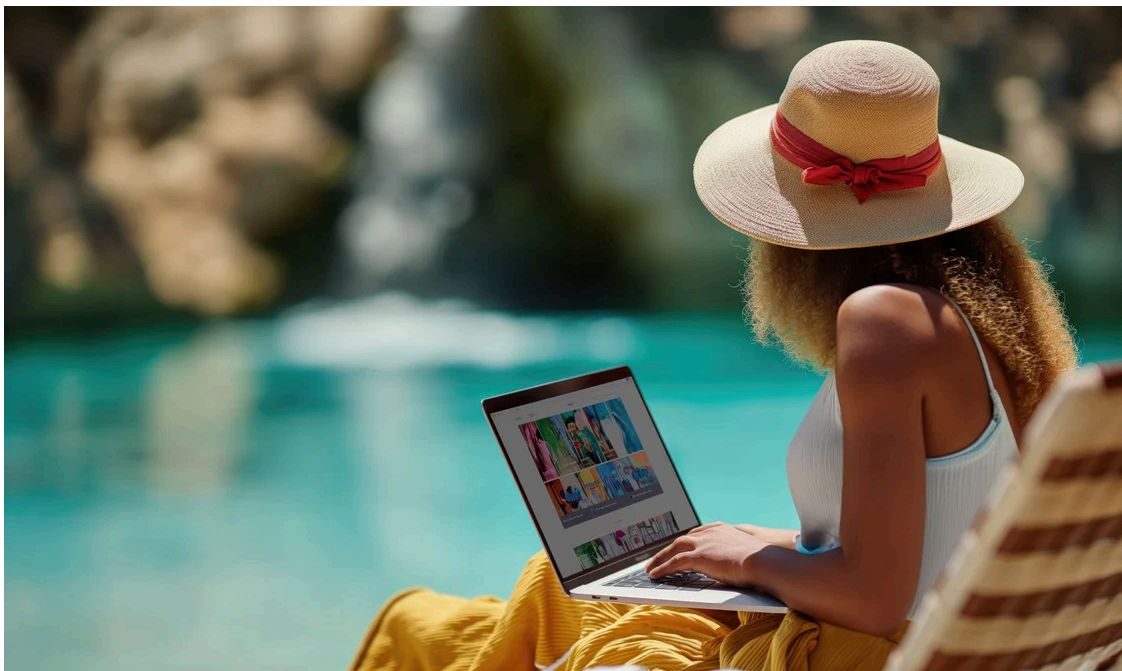# CyberNorth

Welcome to CyberNorth's August 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!

Enjoy your Holidays

August is the time when many of us think about going on holiday. The days are supposed to be warmer, the children have broken up from school and it's time to dig out the cozzie and flip flops.

But cyber security doesn't go on holiday. The threat doesn't go away just because your mind is elsewhere. Indeed distraction is a major tool in the arsenal of the cyber criminals. They know you are open to exciting offers and other temptations. They know that there are fewer staff at work and systems may be more vulnerable.

Enjoy your holiday but keep vigilant and stay secure.

[Image thanks to Freepik]

CyberFest 2024

The outline programme for this year's CyberFest is now available. Over the coming weeks, each event will go live on our events page, with full info and registration details. All dates are provisional at present, other than the Community Conference (16 October) and the CyberNorth Awards (23 October), and are subject to change.

This year, October is CyberFest...

Tuesday 1 October - Borders event with ScotlandIS

Wednesday 2 October - Schools' debate supported by NIBE

Thursday 3 October - Security for developers NorthIT

Friday 4 October - Middle East trade mission planning

Saturday 5 October - Bsides - Newcastle

Tuesday 8 October - CyberCogs: Atom Bank • Net-Defence pizza and beer • StemFest Sunderland day 1

Wednesday 9 October - Tech on the Tyne with Reed • StemFest Sunderland day 2

Thursday 10 October - Innovation centre pitch event • StemFest Sunderland day 3

Friday 11 October - Careers in cyber security with Tech Talent Engine and Sage

Monday 14 October - Meet the Buyer: What you need to present yourself well to the Public Sector

Tuesday 15 October - Women in Tech

Wednesday 16 October - CyberFest Community Conference

Friday 18 October - OWASP

Monday 21 October - Sunderland Business Festival CyberSips with British Esport

Wednesday 23 October - CyberNorth awards night

Thursday 24 October - UKC3 pan-cluster meeting

Keep an eye on our [CyberFest](#) and [Events](#) pages for more details.

Briefing:
Flexible Job
Apprenticeship

CyberNorth

GATESHEAD
COLLEGE

Online
11 July 10:00 - 10:30
Delivery Partner: Gateshead College

Flexi-Job Apprenticeships

A new approach is needed to help businesses access upcoming talent and for the next generation to gain the experience they need in today's modern world of work.

The Challenge:

• The cyber industry faces a skills shortage

• A recognised need to work more collaboratively

• Barriers to recruitment including head count, HR processes

• A requirement to change the way in which education is delivered in Cyber

• Experience gap rather than skills gap

The Solution:

• Intensive cyber technologist higher apprenticeship programme

• Designed in collaboration with employers and delivered over two years on an annual cycle.

• Emphasis on designing, building and testing secure networks or security products or systems with a particular focus on the security aspects of the design.

• Proposed start date of September 2024

Gateshead College, in partnership with CyberNorth, are now uniquely placed to offer a new Flexi-Job Apprenticeship scheme centred around cyber security technology roles. We want to hear from any North East SME business and

organisation which already had a dedicated ICT department and is looking to secure future technology skills and growth needs.

Work Experience:
• PlanBEE is a shared apprenticeship scheme, with employment hosted by the North East Apprenticeship Company (NEAC)
• Designed to replicate real employment conditions and promote collaboration and multi-disciplinary team working
• Apprentices 'rotate' between sponsor companies to gain skills and experience
• For example, based on 8 employers and 8 apprentices; apprentices undertake 4 work placements (2 a year), for up to six months at a time – this would mean not every employer would see every apprentice however this gives a longer period in a placement.
• Apprentices undertake real work and are treated as full time employees
• Move to a different employer after each placement to gain broad and varied experience working in different organisations
• Sign NDAs at each placement

The scheme's aim is for the apprentice to combine technology and cyber security studies with real-world experience with placements across several companies, in a cyber-related role, over the duration of the apprenticeship. This offers the apprentice a chance to experience different work-place environments and duties, as well as potential job offers at the end.

Benefits:
• Proven cost effective and innovative way to recruit and develop talented young people.
• 94% of our current graduates (on built environment) go on to secure roles with sponsor companies
• Intensive higher level apprenticeship programme designed by employers to ensure it meets real needs
• Broad content designed to ensure greater understanding and appreciation of multi-disciplinary roles and collaborative working

The advantage of this flexi-job apprenticeship to smaller SMEs is that it allows flexibility in the number of apprentices a business has the opportunity to see at first-hand, bringing a broader range of talent into the sector.

If you are working in a North East cyber business or department we need you to get involved. To find out more about the skills programme and required commitment, please contact andrew@cybernorth.biz.

Aspiring Cyber Leaders

Congratulations to our latest Aspiring Cyber Leaders cohort.

Forts and castles have long been the place to protect secrets and fight battles, much as we do in cyber security. So it seemed fitting that we would host the final, fully-funded CyberNorth's aspiring cyber leaders programme at Lumley Castle, Chester-le-Street.

The cohort, consisting of nine aspiring leaders from regional cyber businesses, as well as private and public sector cyber teams, took part in the four day-long training

session held over a month, as well as mentoring and executive coaching.

This, the third fully-funded cohort from DSIT's CyberLocal funding, has now enabled almost 30 regional cyber leaders to hone their non-technical skills and develop their careers, build strong networks and advance their skills.

We're planning to run more aspiring cyber leaders cohorts in the future. Keep an eye on our newsletter and socials for more information, or get in touch if you have any questions.

International Opportunities

The **Department for Business and Trade (DBT)** has identified a number of opportunities which span several regions and sectors, potentially opening new avenues for your business. If you are interested in any of these, please follow the respective links or get in touch for further details:

South Africa

Askaris South Africa (previously a branch of Askaris UK) are looking for a UK investor or partner to work with them to develop a local security operations centre

and develop a strong client base. This is an opportunity for a UK firm looking to expand into SA and the rest of the continent as Askaris SA is BBBEE registered.

Please let us know if you are interested and we will put you in contact with DBT.

USA

The defence and security team in Washington DC seeks UK companies with innovative technology or compelling solutions to join a UK cyber security consortium focused on the space sector.

Please click here to view the EOI, and complete the Quad Chart if you would like to be considered.

Saudi Arabia

Neom is creating a lot of AI applications and would like to hear from innovative UK AI companies. Follow the **link** to register as a supplier:

Italy

There are two cyber security events are taking place in Italy in October and November 2024:

Cybertech Europe
8th - 9th October, 2024
La Nuvola Convention Centre, Rome

It is organised in collaboration with Leonardo and Accenture, with a lineup of high-level speakers, including senior government officials, C-level executives, and industry leaders from Europe and across the globe.

Please see information here: **https://italy.cybertechconference.com/**

Cyber Security for Energy & Transport Infrastructure
12th - 13th November, 2024
Genoa

Organised in collaboration with Leonardo. Each year, the conference hosts two days of discussions between cybersecurity experts of major companies (Hitachi, Cisco, Fincantieri, Ansaldo & more), national authorities such as the National Agency for Cybersecurity, the Ministry of Defence, as well as police forces, local authorities, professors and many more.

This event is much more niche than Cybertech. However, it allows for more direct contact with cyber security contacts in organisations and potential buyers. The British Embassy team has developed strong relations with the organisers and are positioning the UK as an example and driver of excellence.

Notable confirmed attendees so far include:

- The Mayor of Genoa
- The Regional Councillor for Economic Development
- CISO of Enel and President of Associso (National Association of CISOs)
- Representatives from the Italian National Agency for Cyber Security

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Thanks to our Supporters

CyberNorth, with the help of its supporters, Accenture, UKC3 and Sage, spearheads the growth of a thriving cyber security community in the North East of England and is a key contributor to the UK's overall cyber strategy.

We do this by promoting all things cyber, especially in the North East to ensure we're getting noticed internationally and nationally, and by focusing on strengthening

the development of three main areas in the region.

We call these our Pillars and they are:

- Skills – for today and tomorrow
- Innovation – future proofing the sector for prosperity
- Ecosystem – support and collaboration for growth

Our goal with these Pillars is to create opportunities to bring the sector together, encourage progressive collaboration and to help establish the region as a centre of excellence for the cyber security industry.

CyberNorth is open to any organisation or individual working in the cyber security sector across the region in any industry. This could means you could be any of the following:

- Cyber security business
- Service Influencer
- User of cyber security services
- Academia
- Public Sector
- Individual innovator or thought leader
- Educational institution

August Events

August is definitely a quieter month but that doesn't mean that nothing is happening. New events are added all the time so keep checking the website for additions:

- Aug 12 - Protecting Vulnerable Users in Smart Homes - Newcastle University
- Aug 29/30 - Newcastle Post-Quantum Security and Quantum Technology WORKSHOP (NEWTON-Q) - Newcastle University

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
- Let us know your news for us to share
- 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

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**