



Welcome to CyberNorth's September 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!



CyberNorth Visits DiSH

As part of CyberNorth's continuing efforts to raise the profile of the region, bring new cyber security businesses and improve its approach to innovation, the team made a visit to Manchester's DiSH. The purpose of the visit was to view the facility, operation and to understand how a consortium and business case was developed to a successful outcome. This continues our regional aspiration for a physical centre, following visits to LORCA in London and the successful running of the Innovation Centre.

[DiSH](#) is a two year old £10m facility to stimulate cyber security and innovation in the North West region, based in Manchester alongside GCHQ. It brings together academia, industry, start-ups and public sector partners to develop solutions and skills for digital security.

It is a place for collaboration between Manchester's business and entrepreneurial community, leading academics, public sector organisations and the voluntary sector to identify digital security threats and innovative responses to them. The hub offers co-working space, as well as access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, allowing business residents to rapidly develop and test their products and services.

Along with GCHQ and the National Cyber Security Centre, DiSH can draw on world-class expertise, as well the knowledge and support of the consortium partners Barclays Eagle Labs, Plexal, Lancaster University and the University of Manchester.

During the visit we met representatives from DiSH, Manchester City Council, Manchester and Lancaster Universities, Plexal as well as DIST and Waterstons. This centre is an excellent model for what we are trying to achieve in the region and gives us a good understanding of the work that lies ahead.

Watch out for NewDiSH...



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 - Cybersecurity careers in The Borders 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 - StemFest Sunderland day 3

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

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

Tuesday 15 October - Women in Tech hosted by BJSS (featuring fireside chats with Accenture and Cystel)

Wednesday 16 October - CyberFest Community Conference - featuring workshops and panels by national and international speakers ([buy your tickets here](#)).

Friday 18 October - OWASP

Monday 21 October - Sunderland Business Festival CyberSips with British Esport

Wednesday 23 October - CyberNorth Awards Night ([nominate your business or staff here - deadline 18th September](#)).

Thursday 24 October - UKC3 pan-cluster meeting

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



Quantum Computing Conference

For a second year in a row, Andrew from CyberNorth attended the two-day annual “Newcastle Post-Quantum Security and Quantum technology Workshop”, hosted by Newcastle University, on 29 and 30 August. Although he knew that many of the in-

depth insights would be beyond his understanding (like last year), he went with an open mind and the hope that he could at least glean a broad viewpoint on how this technology was progressing in the sphere of cyber security, and to brag about a few new buzz-words and acronyms (to be looked-up later).

Just like last year, he was indeed left behind and bewildered when it came to most of the descriptions of the mathematics and physics principles behind the presentations' key notes. However, there was enough for him to at least realise that these guys did have that deep understanding! There were interesting talks on such topics as:

- Quantum Sensing with Trapped Ions
- EPSRC Strategy for Quantum Technologies
- Cryogenic Solutions for Quantum Communication Systems
- Tillable 3D-Integrated Superconducting Circuits for Quantum Computing
- Probabilistic proofs and their applications

The two stand-out talks were the presentations by:

- Dr Daniel Shiu (Arqit): "Simple and Effective Steps to Quantum Safety Today", which gave some reassurance about how the post-quantum computing security scene isn't as scary as last year's conference left me about imminent post-quantum exposure to encryption vulnerabilities.
- (2) Dr Thomas Matheus, from Cystel, one of our CyberNorth community partners, with "A Governance, Risk, Compliance Perspective" presentation. Andrew questioned how we ensure that this emerging technology can be embraced by future generations, using this as an opportunity to suggest that suitably-qualified practitioners went into schools as CyberFirst Ambassadors to help raise the profile – this led to a few interesting, but positive minutes of open discussion across the room.

So, with the conference over for another year, we can breathe a sigh of relief that the UK is embracing and pushing advances in post-quantum computing, and is maturing as an industry. The next key step is to be able to begin to successfully present quantum technology awareness and solutions to our businesses, at a high enough pitch that CEOs can take future post-quantum risks to their valuable data seriously, and begin planning for it.

You can learn more here about the UK's [National Quantum Strategy](#).



UK Cybersecurity Startups Radar

Wavestone UK is a consultancy firm that specialises in Cybersecurity.

Every year it publishes a report called the “UK Cybersecurity Startups Radar”. This document seeks to provide readers with Wavestone’s perspective on emerging themes and trends arising in the UK Cyber sector.

A radar is also built within the document and provides a list of emerging startups and their specialty. You can find the 2023 version of the report [here](#).

Wavestone is currently working on the 2024 version of the report. The first step is to update its database with the list of new, emerging and existing startups as well as collect information on their company and product.

If you wish to be a part of the 2024 report, please complete the (link checked) [MS Form](#) containing a list of questions for startups.



New Addition to the Team

CyberNorth is delighted that Valentina Valenzuela (Val) has joined the team, as an intern, to help us out with much needed marketing and PR support. A recent graduate of Northumbria University, she achieved a BA in Journalism and English Literature.

Val says she has 'formally started working as a Marketing Intern for CyberNorth the cyber security cluster in the North East! I am excited to start this new chapter of my career and hope to learn as much as I can from this team of capable and creative people.'

She joins Danielle, Thea, Andrew and Phil who make up the rest of the CyberNorth team. No doubt many of you will hear from Val over the coming months and you can get in touch with her at val@cybernorth.biz



September Events

September is a quieter than last year as CyberFest has moved to October. New events are added all the time so keep checking the [website](#) for additions:

- Sept 12 - Cyber Intelligence Alliance September Conference
- Sept 25 - Aspire Cyber Summit
- Sept 26 - Evolve North: Your Security, Our Legacy, What's next in Digital security?

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

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

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