San Diego Regional Cyber Lab

San Diego Takes Top Spot in 2024 Government Experience Awards. My eCISO Cited in Awards

The City of San Diego has been named the #1 City in the Nation in the 2024 Government Experience Awards by the Center for Digital Government (CDG). This prestigious honor recognizes San Diego's exceptional efforts to enhance digital services, engage the community, and create a more responsive government through cutting-edge technology and human-centered design.

Key innovations that contributed to San Diego's success include:

- Integrating AI-driven tools, such as My eCISO and emerging technologies to improve service delivery.

- Enhancing accessibility and personalization through user-friendly websites, live chat, multi-lingual chatbots, and location services.

- Expanding broadband access and digital equity initiatives to connect residents across the region.

This award celebrates San Diego's commitment to providing seamless, inclusive, and forward-thinking government experiences, setting a benchmark for cities nationwide.

For more details, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events:

- *Quarterly Executive Stakeholder Committee Meeting (12/12)*

- *Quarterly Technical Stakeholder Committee Meeting (12/19)*

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Cyber Lab Hosts Informative Session with FBI

The San Diego Regional Cyber Lab recently hosted an informational session featuring two representatives from the FBI who shared insights into the evolving cyber threat landscape.
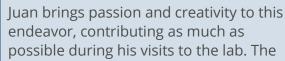
Attendees gained a better understanding of the FBI's mission and its specialized efforts to combat cybercrime, including threats from nation-states and ransomware. They also highlighted resources for cybersecurity awareness training and emphasized best practices to help organizations defend against emerging threats.

Through demonstrative videos and case studies, participants explored practical strategies to enhance resilience. The event underscored the Cyber Lab's dedication to fostering collaboration and equipping the community with cutting-edge cybersecurity knowledge, empowering attendees to better protect themselves and their organizations.

For a summary of their full presentation, click here.

Meet our Cyber Lab Champion!

We're thrilled to highlight the dedication of Juan Rodriguez, one of the Cyber Lab's most dedicated and frequent contributors, and current MS student at CSUSM who has been instrumental in launching our new cyber range! While still in its early stages of development, the range features Blue/Red Team VMs and vulnerable targets designed to offer a collaborative and engaging space for participants to explore cybersecurity concepts and experiment with new attack vectors.

Juan brings passion and creativity to this endeavor, contributing as much as possible during his visits to the lab. The range is a fantastic playground for learners and seasoned professionals alike, providing opportunities to test strategies and sharpen skills. We encourage everyone to jump in, play, and help shape this growing resource. Thank you, Juan, for your hard work and vision in making this initiative a reality and building a community around it!!

San Diego Regional Cyber Lab Wins Innovator of the Year Award for Transformative Cybersecurity Tool, My eCISO

The San Diego Regional Cyber Lab was honored with the Innovator of the Year Award – Public Sector by the San Diego Business Journal for its groundbreaking chatbot, My eCISO, launched in May 2024. This tool empowers organizations and individuals to enhance their network security, offering no-cost, tailored cybersecurity guidance to small businesses, government agencies, educators, and the public.

Developed in collaboration with partners like Amazon Web Services (AWS), Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the San Diego Cyber Center of Excellence (CCOE), 11:59, and other regional stakeholders, My eCISO addresses the growing need for accessible cybersecurity resources, especially for those without in-house expertise. The chatbot delivers flexible, actionable solutions designed to meet the unique needs of diverse environments.

Receiving this recognition underscores the City of San Diego's commitment to leveraging innovation to protect vulnerable communities and improve public safety. The Cyber Lab encourages everyone to share this resource to help strengthen digital security across sectors.

CYBER SECURITY STEWARDSHIP AWARDS 2024

Cybersecurity Education and Training Licenses Offered

The San Diego Regional Cyber Lab is proud to support our regional community by offering licenses for Pluralsight, Burp Suite, and Shodan at no cost, empowering residents to strengthen their cybersecurity skills and improve our regional talent pool.

- **Pluralsight**: Provides courses ranging from foundational to advanced cyber topics, helping users build real-world expertise in securing systems, detecting vulnerabilities, and responding to cyber threats.

- **Burp Suite**: A powerful tool for identifying and stress-testing various vulnerabilities, giving users hands-on experience in safeguarding online assets.

- **Shodan**: A search engine that uncovers internet-connected devices and helps users secure them from potential threats.

To ensure accessible training, we're also offering in-house workstations within our downtown lab space where visitors can test out these tools at their own pace. The SDRCL is committed to equipping the San Diego community with the resources and knowledge needed to enhance cybersecurity awareness and defense.

Learn more about these tools and request your own license here.

Securing the WIN!

SDRCL Program Lead Ian Brazill (left) and Cyber Lead Brendan Daly (right) recently accepted the San Diego Business Journal's Public Sector Innovator of the Year Award. A big thank you to Lisa Easterly (center) and the San Diego Cyber Center of Excellence (SD-CCOE) for hosting the award event (hosted within their larger 10-year anniversary celebration!) in November and for her continuous support of the cyber lab.

This award highlights the critical role of public sector innovation in enhancing regional cybersecurity. The City of San Diego's leadership and collaboration have been instrumental in driving initiatives that empower organizations and individuals to stay ahead of evolving cyber threats.

San Diego Named #1 Digital City, Recognized for AI and Cybersecurity Innovations

The City of San Diego recently earned first place in the 2024 Digital Cities Award for its advancements in AI, cybersecurity, and digital equity. The city launched innovative AI pilots on its intranet, improving access to critical documents like Administrative Regulations and the Municipal Code. Collaborations with Google, Microsoft, and AWS, along with AI Business Discovery Workshops, aligned emerging AI solutions with city needs. In terms of cybersecurity, the City introduced My eCISO, a free chatbot designed to help organizations of any size strengthen their security posture.

The City also expanded digital access through its SD Access 4 All program, providing public Wi-Fi at nearly 400 locations and distributing 4,000 hotspots through libraries. This effort connected 210,000+ residents and supported 3.5 million sessions. Partnerships with groups like the San Diego Futures Foundation enabled digital literacy training and personalized support. Additionally, 19,000 hours of annual modernization work helped fast-track tech upgrades, replacing outdated systems and enhancing resilience.

San Diego's recognition also highlights its commitment to regional collaboration and innovation. By working with industry leaders and community organizations, the city ensured its initiatives addressed both immediate needs and long-term goals, setting a model for digital transformation and equity nationwide.

Successful Cybersecurity Awareness Webinar Empowers Small Local Businesses

We're thrilled to share that a recent cybersecurity awareness webinar for small businesses, hosted by the City of San Diego's Economic Development Department and the San Diego Regional Cyber Lab, was a great success! This event would not have been possible without the collaboration of FRSecure's Dave Tuckman, ISACA San Diego, and our regional partners who contributed to making this happen.

The session provided valuable insights to small businesses on critical topics like password management, ransomware, social engineering, and more. It's rewarding to know that together, we've taken another step toward building a safer city for all.

We're especially proud to have supported San Diego businesses with an offer of free 3-year licenses for ESET Home Security, helping strengthen their businesses' defenses against a variety of cyber threats.

We look forward to continuing this journey of educating and empowering our local small business community. Stay tuned—this was only the first of many similar events to come in 2025!

Cybersecurity Support for MS-ISAC and EI-ISAC Members

Did you know that MS-ISAC and EI-ISAC members can access free and discounted cybersecurity training resources? Services include product configuration guidelines, incident response resources, malware analysis, the Malicious Domain Blocking and Reporting (MDBR) system, and email protection. Threat assessments and webinars are also available to keep members informed and prepared.

These resources enhance cybersecurity awareness and resilience for state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies. By utilizing these tools, members can better safeguard their systems against evolving risks. For more details, visit here.

Linked in

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