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9-23-2021

## Artificial Intelligence in Cyber Security

University of Maine Artificial Intelligence Initiative

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## UMaine Artificial Intelligence: Artificial Intelligence in Cyber Security

**Date:** September 23, 2021

**Run Time:** 00:59:39

<https://youtu.be/TgUiJVjbZF8>

This webinar marks the first in the Fall 2021 series.

UMaine AI draws top talent and leverages a distinctive set of capabilities from the University of Maine and other collaborating institutions from across Maine and beyond, while it also recruits world-class talent from across the nation and the world. It is centered at the University of Maine, leveraging the university's strengths across disciplines, including computing and information sciences, engineering, health and life sciences, business, education, social sciences, and more.

**Transcript is machine generated, unedited, in English.**

00:00

good morning good afternoon and good

00:02

evening to all our advertisers from

00:04

various parts of the world my name is

00:06

ali abedi serving aishwarpali as region

00:09

1 assistant area chair and associate

00:11

vice president for research at the

00:13

university of maine before we start our

00:15

webinar today i would like to thank our

00:18

ieee colleagues in silicon valley and

00:20

boston sections i truly regen one uh

00:24

usa ieee india and actually china for

00:27

promoting this event which yielded over

00:30

321 registrations  
00:33  
a special thanks to israeli  
00:34  
communications society and computer  
00:36  
society's joint chapter here in maine as  
00:39  
well as university of maine artificial  
00:41  
intelligence initiative for planning and  
00:44  
hosting this event  
00:45  
please make sure to enter your questions  
00:48  
in the qr may box and we'll answer them  
00:50  
at the end of the presentations  
00:53  
it is now my great pleasure to introduce  
00:56  
our moderator  
00:57  
dr julia upton associate professor of  
01:00  
mathematics at austin university voice  
01:03  
chair of i triple e main section and  
01:05  
chair of i triple e main communications  
01:07  
and computer society joint chapter to  
01:10  
introduce our speakers julia  
01:13  
thank you ali  
01:15  
uh i would like to welcome everyone on  
01:17  
behalf of ieee main section and the join  
01:21  
computer society communication society  
01:23  
chapter thank you for joining us  
01:26  
uh we  
01:28  
will we have four speakers for you today

01:30  
um and our first speaker is um  
01:34  
bill layer  
01:36  
uh rear admiral retired bill layer  
01:39  
served in the united states navy for 33  
01:42  
years in intelligence and cryptological  
01:44  
warfare  
01:45  
his career spanned the cold war desert  
01:48  
storm and the global war on terrorism  
01:51  
his minion navy assignments included the  
01:53  
deputy director for information  
01:55  
technology and communications a  
01:57  
commander naval security group command  
02:00  
for meade maryland  
02:02  
and at the national security agency  
02:04  
where he served as a senior operations  
02:06  
officer in the national security  
02:09  
operations center  
02:10  
he served as the commanding officer  
02:13  
naval information operations command in  
02:15  
norfolk virginia where he was selected  
02:18  
to flag rank in 2008  
02:21  
as a flag officer he focused on cyber  
02:24  
warfare serving as the director of  
02:26  
information operations on the staff of  
02:28

the chief of naval operations  
02:31  
and as the deputy commander for u.s  
02:33  
fleet cyber command u.s 10th fleet and  
02:36  
the director of warfare integration for  
02:39  
information dominance on the navy staff  
02:41  
in the pentagon  
02:43  
he retired from the navy in 2014 and  
02:46  
worked in the defense industry focusing  
02:48  
on developing cyber capabilities for the  
02:51  
military  
02:52  
rare admiral lehr is a native of maine  
02:55  
and has a bachelor of arts degree in  
02:57  
political science from the university of  
02:59  
southern maine and a master of arts and  
03:02  
national security and strategic studies  
03:04  
from the u.s naval war college  
03:07  
so let's welcome our first speaker for  
03:09  
our artificial intelligence and cyber  
03:11  
security webinar today  
03:14  
admiral  
03:16  
your floor  
03:19  
thank you very much dr upton uh it's uh  
03:22  
my honor to be uh  
03:24  
to be part of the panel today and and  
03:27  
the first thing that i will do i always

03:28  
get a little nervous when uh  
03:31  
i did in engineering intense uh  
03:33  
environments that i want to emphasize my  
03:35  
my science was political science and and  
03:38  
today i think you'll see  
03:40  
probably a lot more along the policy  
03:42  
implications  
03:43  
uh that we have in cyber security and  
03:47  
and uh  
03:48  
and  
03:49  
what that means and i think it tees up  
03:51  
some of the other panelists so i've got  
03:53  
a pretty short presentation and uh  
03:58  
you know it kind of goes along with with  
04:00  
some thinking that i've been doing of  
04:01  
late and you know how are we going to  
04:04  
cope with  
04:05  
uh  
04:06  
cyber security over the next couple of  
04:08  
decades and  
04:10  
you know for all that's been said and  
04:12  
written about the end of uh  
04:15  
the war on terrorism uh in afghanistan  
04:18  
uh  
04:19

you know we were there for a reason we  
04:21  
were there because the united states was  
04:23  
attacked and  
04:24  
and we spent an awful lot of money in  
04:26  
iraq and afghanistan over the last two  
04:29  
decades and a lot of us will remember  
04:32  
exactly where we were uh 20 years ago uh  
04:36  
in remembrance ceremonies  
04:38  
this uh  
04:39  
this saturday  
04:41  
but but  
04:42  
thinking ahead  
04:44  
you know coming out of of where the  
04:46  
nation has been  
04:48  
you know i i  
04:49  
think i come to the conclusion that  
04:51  
we're very unlikely to have another  
04:54  
large  
04:55  
uh conflict that will commit what we did  
04:57  
over the last 20 years  
04:59  
and  
05:01  
if that's only a guess  
05:03  
prognosticators are horribly bad at  
05:05  
predicting predicting war but  
05:08  
what does that mean for for cyber and

05:11  
cyber security in particular and  
05:14  
you know we all know if you're looking  
05:16  
in this this kind of area that the pace  
05:19  
and the complexity of global cyber  
05:21  
attacks in the last  
05:23  
you know 25 years has  
05:25  
uh changed significantly  
05:28  
now from my bio you you'll get pretty  
05:30  
quickly that i was the part of the navy  
05:32  
in the part of the navy that was  
05:34  
associated with national security agency  
05:36  
in fort me i spent you know most of the  
05:39  
last uh 15 years of my career in that  
05:42  
environment  
05:43  
and you know through that i saw you know  
05:45  
that really  
05:47  
you know how we use cyber uh as part of  
05:50  
espionage and  
05:52  
and you know as time went on and in  
05:55  
being involved in the stand up of you  
05:58  
know the navy cyber service fleet soccer  
06:00  
command and 10th fleet  
06:02  
you know there's really that that  
06:04  
spectrum that espionage where it  
06:06



probably started in all nations  
06:09  
there's certainly cyber crime that  
06:11  
affects us all and then you know  
06:13  
what i focus on what i think about is is  
06:16  
what cyber means for warfare  
06:19  
and you know for warfare it's seen the  
06:21  
same kind of uh  
06:24  
evolution that that we've seen in  
06:26  
protecting businesses and protecting  
06:28  
everything from from kitty scripts to  
06:30  
fishing to zero uh day exploits and and  
06:33  
lastly with the solar winds  
06:36  
uh attack uh you know a very complex  
06:39  
supply chain  
06:41  
uh exploit and and the costs are  
06:44  
are mind-boggling really if you go back  
06:46  
to  
06:47  
you know what was clearly a politically  
06:49  
motivated uh  
06:51  
you know attack in 2007 in estonia you  
06:54  
know it's really hard to pinpoint what  
06:55  
the costs were and you know some loss to  
06:58  
banking revenue is estimated around a  
07:01  
million dollars  
07:02  
you go forward you know you know eight

07:05  
years uh to what happened in in saudi  
07:07  
arabia again probably a politically  
07:10  
motivated attack and retribution for  
07:13  
uh for stuxnet you know 35 000 computers  
07:17  
another 7 500 servers destroyed  
07:20  
and and it put the saudi arabia oil  
07:23  
economy at risk  
07:24  
[Music]  
07:25  
uh  
07:26  
a couple years later with not petya  
07:28  
again you know computers destroyed more  
07:30  
servers destroyed billions lost and one  
07:32  
of the interesting things about not  
07:34  
petya  
07:35  
is that a  
07:37  
united states insurance  
07:40  
carrier declared that it was an act of  
07:42  
war and and has refused to to pay on  
07:45  
insurance so  
07:47  
these kind of uh  
07:49  
challenges are in the national security  
07:51  
realm for all that we do with sober for  
07:53  
solar cyber security  
07:55  
and  
07:56

lastly within within the year you know  
07:59  
solar winds which is  
08:00  
an incredibly complex supply chain  
08:03  
attack  
08:04  
and  
08:05  
what i think has  
08:07  
caused me  
08:08  
you know thought and worry as as it go  
08:10  
is the  
08:12  
you know almost the sense of  
08:14  
helplessness and and where do you start  
08:17  
to unravel this that i heard from cyber  
08:19  
security experts and people who are  
08:22  
trying to put together the solar winds  
08:24  
attack  
08:25  
and you know the study that was done by  
08:28  
you know presidential panel uh 2016 that  
08:31  
you know these costs you know amount  
08:33  
between you know seven  
08:35  
fifty seven and a hundred and uh nine  
08:37  
billion  
08:38  
uh it's incredible amount of money  
08:40  
that's lost to the economy  
08:43  
and so  
08:44  
if we do have this situation where we

08:47

are

08:48

you know looking for

08:51

you know what cyber security looks like

08:53

in a con

08:54

uh outside of a conflict you know we've

08:57

got to think about where we are with

08:59

deterrence and

09:00

you know we know that there's a close

09:02

relationship between criminal hackers

09:04

and nation-state

09:05

attackers that you know an example of

09:08

that is in in many pieces of

09:11

uh malware you can see that it checks

09:13

for the presence of a cyrillic keyboard

09:16

uh so it doesn't land on a russian

09:19

target

09:20

the united states has tried you know

09:22

criminal indictments but they're

09:24

incredibly difficult to act on

09:27

uh there are often conflicting roles

09:29

between espionage and cyber security uh

09:32

we saw that in the obama administration

09:35

with you know agreements with president

09:37

z that we kind of left that all off the

09:39

table because we we do want to collect  
09:42  
intelligence  
09:43  
but with with all deterrence there's a  
09:47  
necessity to back  
09:48  
up uh  
09:50  
what we're trying to  
09:51  
uh prevent with some actions  
09:54  
and i think we've seen a different look  
09:56  
with with president biden and  
09:59  
in the warning to russia  
10:01  
with ppd  
10:02  
21 uh warning but the the problem with  
10:05  
ppd21 it's incredibly broad it's  
10:08  
everything  
10:09  
and if everything is important how are  
10:11  
we going to really make that enforceable  
10:14  
and you know  
10:15  
followed by that did it have an effect  
10:17  
is the our evil uh kind of disappearing  
10:20  
from the uh  
10:23  
uh  
10:24  
from the you know environment for a  
10:26  
while is that connected yeah i don't i  
10:28  
think it's too early to know  
10:30  
but but also in a more promising thing

10:33  
you know shortly after the putin biden  
10:36  
uh summit  
10:37  
there was a microsoft uh exchange server  
10:40  
attack that was uh attributed to china  
10:43  
and in both nato and the eu join the  
10:46  
united states and in condemning that so  
10:49  
there's got to be these kind of of  
10:52  
things uh happening in this environment  
10:54  
where we're  
10:56  
using all the tools of national security  
10:58  
to be able to do that and and lastly you  
11:01  
know i think it's you know we're gonna  
11:02  
have to rethink cyber security over the  
11:05  
long haul and what  
11:07  
you know it could mean over the next  
11:08  
couple of decades and  
11:10  
and you know security has to be more by  
11:12  
default if you turn it on it's going to  
11:14  
be secure that's two-factor  
11:16  
authentication digital identities  
11:19  
for most things that we do online i know  
11:21  
that's controversial there are some  
11:23  
machine learning ai things with fileless  
11:26  
malware detection you know a company  
11:28

called blue vector

11:29

you know has advanced threat detection

11:31

that it learns pretty quickly what a

11:34

normal environment looks like and is

11:37

very quick to uh

11:39

to

11:42

identify those things that are abnormal

11:44

and and likely malware in an environment

11:47

and and work with uh traditional

11:49

cybersecurity systems zero trust it's a

11:52

huge thing

11:54

within the federal government and dod uh

11:56

i think that has to be how we think

11:59

about

12:00

uh

12:00

systems going forward

12:02

um

12:04

i have to make it more difficult to

12:05

remove information from a system and in

12:09

that area it's things you know data loss

12:12

prevention it looks again

12:13

with machine learning tools to to do

12:16

behavioral analysis in real time to say

12:19

this this is something that you don't

12:21

have permission to do

12:23  
uh and one of the things we learned from  
12:25  
uh solar winds is you know policy  
12:28  
enforcement which we've generally talked  
12:30  
about in terms of  
12:33  
how  
12:34  
it applies to individuals but policy  
12:36  
enforcement also has to apply  
12:39  
to uh software authorities and if you  
12:41  
thought a little bit about the solarwind  
12:43  
product that was being used to  
12:46  
distribute patches uh what uh what can  
12:49  
your software access and and and what  
12:51  
should it not be able to access so  
12:54  
so uh bringing uh that thinking that  
12:56  
we've done uh in a human sense to a  
12:58  
machine sense as well  
13:00  
and and the last thought is it you know  
13:03  
comes from an article that was you know  
13:05  
published in foreign affairs about a  
13:07  
year ago by general nakasone who's the  
13:09  
commander for united states cyber  
13:11  
command and  
13:13  
is defending ford  
13:15  
in a traditional military sense  
13:16



defending forward is something that  
13:18  
we've always thought about you if you  
13:20  
wait for someone to attack you you're  
13:22  
probably going to lose 100 of the time  
13:25  
i've long argued that that cyber is no  
13:28  
different than defending an air base or  
13:30  
or defending against the submarine and  
13:33  
general nakasoni basically says we have  
13:35  
to defend beyond the firmament of the  
13:38  
nation  
13:39  
and that leads to you know i think  
13:41  
really how we think about cyber defense  
13:43  
how we leverage the  
13:45  
practices and the authorities of our  
13:47  
allies to be able to do that so i think  
13:50  
that's about my time and i will turn it  
13:52  
back over to julian  
13:56  
thank you very much admiral  
14:00  
if you have any questions for the  
14:01  
admiral please type them into the q a  
14:04  
portion and we'll address them at the  
14:06  
end  
14:07  
our second speaker  
14:09  
is scott mcgann  
14:12  
scott mcgonn has been a special agent

14:14  
with the federal bureau of  
14:15  
investigations for 25 years  
14:18  
during his time with the fbi he has  
14:20  
investigated white-collar crime the  
14:22  
russian and italian mafias cyber crime  
14:25  
counter-terrorism and espionage matters  
14:29  
special agent magan is an fbi certified  
14:31  
firearms instructor a member of the  
14:34  
fbi's evidence response team a certified  
14:37  
police instructor an fbi agent faculty  
14:41  
member teaching fbi coursework to police  
14:43  
agencies domestically and abroad  
14:46  
he received his undergraduate degree  
14:48  
from the university of massachusetts at  
14:50  
amherst  
14:52  
his master of science in criminal  
14:54  
justice from the university of  
14:55  
massachusetts at lowell and his mba from  
14:59  
bentley university  
15:00  
he currently teaches issues in cyber  
15:03  
crime and cyber security as an adjunct  
15:06  
faculty member at young massachusetts  
15:08  
law  
15:09  
in addition special agent ghan was  
15:11

nominated for the 2018 attorney  
15:14  
general's award for fraud prevention  
15:17  
and the 2018 fbi director's award for  
15:20  
outstanding criminal investigation  
15:23  
for his involvement in an international  
15:25  
corporate espionage investigation  
15:28  
agent magang is the alpha team leader  
15:30  
for operation workspeed the government's  
15:33  
full-scale effort to secure the  
15:35  
development and delivery of the covit 19  
15:38  
vaccine it currently is also involved in  
15:41  
training and speaking to the private  
15:43  
sector  
15:44  
in academia about cyber threats  
15:46  
corporate espionage counterintelligence  
15:48  
matters insider threats and intellectual  
15:51  
property theft on the on behalf of the  
15:53  
fbi  
15:54  
well welcome special agent the floor is  
15:56  
yours  
15:58  
thank you so much dr upton uh i'm going  
16:01  
to talk about something that's a little  
16:03  
bit outside the normal realm for  
16:05  
engineers and and i i genuinely thank my  
16:08  
colleague for just introducing some of

16:10  
the ideas of espionage and hacking and  
16:14  
all of those things that i talk a great  
16:16  
deal about but one of the things that  
16:18  
i've been involved with lately that the  
16:20  
american public generally doesn't get to  
16:22  
see  
16:23  
is a number of different aspects to the  
16:27  
whole subject of foreign influence and  
16:30  
what i'm referring to is that our  
16:33  
country has a number of different  
16:34  
adversaries out there in the world and  
16:38  
as as does every country certainly  
16:41  
but as part of this  
16:43  
there are adversaries out there nation  
16:46  
states that are looking to obtain our  
16:49  
technology when they can't develop it  
16:51  
themselves so as uh i see a society of  
16:54  
engineers uh who are out there working  
16:57  
hard to develop these things we don't  
16:59  
want to see that idea uh that  
17:02  
intellectual property stolen by foreign  
17:05  
agents and so i want to talk a little  
17:08  
bit about that because the  
17:10  
how it used to happen in the past is not  
17:12

how it happens now when we're discussing  
17:14  
espionage in the past we used to talk  
17:17  
about uh spies coming into the country  
17:20  
developing sources and assets and and  
17:23  
they would steal but now it's so much  
17:25  
broader than that and i want to give you  
17:27  
a little bit of an idea of how that has  
17:30  
developed  
17:32  
we've seen the headlines uh previously  
17:34  
all over the nation about  
17:37  
different entities uh different  
17:39  
countries obtaining intellectual  
17:41  
property whether at universities or  
17:43  
research associations or companies uh  
17:46  
obtaining this technology for their own  
17:49  
benefits certainly something that the  
17:51  
fbi in their counter intelligence  
17:54  
counter espionage divisions  
17:56  
try to work against  
17:59  
i i'm just amazed that i can even show  
18:02  
you this slide that it's been  
18:04  
unclassified in years past we certainly  
18:07  
wouldn't talk about anything related to  
18:10  
counterintelligence but as you can see  
18:12  
here from uh this slide we have a number

18:15  
of counter intelligence cases throughout  
18:18  
the government throughout the fbi  
18:20  
and the cases on technology transfer  
18:24  
have increased markedly over the last  
18:27  
two decades  
18:29  
i became involved with  
18:31  
intellectual property theft and economic  
18:34  
espionage in the middle of my career and  
18:38  
have not gotten away from it because  
18:40  
it's become so prevalent you can see  
18:42  
that cases on economic espionage and  
18:45  
counter proliferation of technology  
18:48  
has uh increased to about a third of our  
18:52  
total counterintelligence cases and  
18:54  
again from my perspective being a an fbi  
18:58  
agent for 26 years i have never seen the  
19:02  
fbi put out a slide like this previously  
19:05  
to the public um so this should be all  
19:07  
new information for you but it  
19:09  
highlights the importance of technology  
19:12  
transfer and i use that term in the  
19:14  
pejorative uh of technology transfer at  
19:17  
the fbi  
19:20  
uh and and what i alluded to previously  
19:22

was that technology transfer is coming  
19:26  
in a lot of nefarious uh from a lot of  
19:28  
nefarious vectors it used to be just  
19:31  
spies coming here trying to find  
19:33  
information uh and bring it back to  
19:35  
their home country and certainly we have  
19:37  
that we uh that has never gone away but  
19:40  
we also have different uh entities  
19:43  
different nation states uh influencing  
19:46  
our government as we've heard about in  
19:48  
the 2016 election certainly in the 2020  
19:51  
elections this topic has come to the  
19:54  
fore but also more importantly and i  
19:57  
i'm in the boston area and work in  
19:59  
greater new england and i can tell you i  
20:02  
have seen non-traditional collectors at  
20:04  
the 12 o'clock o'clock position on this  
20:06  
graphic non-traditional collectors have  
20:09  
become  
20:10  
uh much more important to foreign  
20:13  
governments and so these non-traditional  
20:16  
collectors are people who are not  
20:17  
trained spies but they simply have  
20:19  
access to the information that other  
20:22  
governments want and for various reasons

20:24  
and sometimes because of a little  
20:27  
intimidation they provide this  
20:29  
information uh from our country to their  
20:32  
typically their country of origin or to  
20:35  
other foreign governments there are a  
20:38  
number of different ways that foreign  
20:39  
governments will obtain  
20:42  
intellectual property information and  
20:44  
the ideas that engineers develop either  
20:47  
through hacking influence or a lot of  
20:50  
times through talent conversion where  
20:53  
they will have talent recruitment  
20:55  
programs and a number of comp uh  
20:57  
countries have this where they will  
21:00  
acquire information from an individual  
21:03  
who is a leader in that particular field  
21:06  
so if the field is nano technology  
21:09  
they will effectively co-op someone  
21:12  
through money cash or a number of other  
21:14  
methodologies uh in order to provide  
21:17  
that country with  
21:19  
information uh on nanotechnology in that  
21:22  
particular example  
21:24  
so some of the techniques are legal  
21:26



certainly joint ventures are providing  
21:28  
money and investment into companies is  
21:31  
legal but oftentimes those techniques  
21:34  
are not  
21:35  
clearly transparent in what's going on  
21:37  
and certainly unethical at a minimum  
21:41  
i'll give you an example in the talent  
21:43  
plan uh case that i just mentioned  
21:46  
regarding technology uh some of you may  
21:48  
know he made headlines last year dr  
21:51  
lieber of harvard university uh was  
21:54  
arrested by myself and some of my  
21:56  
colleagues uh for making false  
21:59  
statements uh was the initial charge but  
22:02  
he was allegedly involved in a talent  
22:04  
program and i'll show you here an  
22:06  
excerpt from the affidavit for the  
22:08  
arrest warrant where it's highlighted  
22:11  
here that he was getting fifty thousand  
22:13  
dollars per month and an extra 150 000 a  
22:17  
year for living expenses and money to  
22:19  
develop a lab  
22:20  
over at the wuhan institute of  
22:22  
technology  
22:23  
uh

22:24  
you can see here an extra 50 000  
22:27  
a month on top of a uh what i perceive  
22:31  
to be a generous harvard stipend uh an  
22:34  
annual salary uh was certainly  
22:37  
motivating for dr lieber when i arrested  
22:39  
him with my colleagues  
22:41  
um he was certainly not surprised to see  
22:45  
uh that this was something so if you are  
22:47  
approached as an engineer out there  
22:49  
developing some new technology  
22:52  
or someone at your uh company has been  
22:56  
approached uh there is a quid pro quo  
22:59  
expected when someone's paying you fifty  
23:02  
thousand dollars a month uh for the  
23:04  
information that's in your head  
23:08  
here is a traditional spy ms yay here  
23:12  
was at boston university uh posing as a  
23:16  
student she was a member of a top  
23:19  
military academy and directed by a  
23:22  
foreign government  
23:23  
last year we looked to arrest her but  
23:26  
she already skipped town  
23:28  
and  
23:29  
before she could be arrested  
23:31

this young man was a medical student as  
23:34  
well in the boston area and  
23:37  
his uh activities were discovered at the  
23:40  
airport when 21 vials of a biological  
23:43  
substance were found wrapped in his sock  
23:46  
when he was trying to go back to his  
23:48  
country of origin he was arrested at  
23:50  
logan airport what's more interesting  
23:53  
about this particular case is that this  
23:56  
happened  
23:57  
30 times within a six-month period with  
24:00  
different individuals um so this is uh  
24:04  
the wholesale theft of intellectual  
24:07  
property in this case from our bio bio  
24:10  
uh pharma industry in the boston area  
24:14  
and as far as corporate espionage goes  
24:16  
here's a great case i like this case i  
24:19  
call it a great case because it was one  
24:21  
of my cases uh american superconductor  
24:24  
was a company here in massachusetts and  
24:26  
their intellectual property their low  
24:28  
voltage ride through solution for your  
24:31  
electrical engineers out there in the  
24:32  
audience uh was stolen by a foreign  
24:35  
company um and they used the traditional

24:39  
uh money  
24:41  
uh ego assuasion and uh sexual favors uh  
24:46  
in order to uh get deion carabasovac  
24:50  
seen right here who was a serbian  
24:52  
national uh to flip for their particular  
24:55  
company so he was the insider at  
24:58  
american superconductor who gave the  
25:00  
crown jewels to a foreign competitor uh  
25:04  
a very interesting case which i can  
25:06  
usually talk about at length um it was  
25:09  
just made into an fbi documentary which  
25:12  
will be coming out this month so very  
25:14  
good case on economic espionage  
25:20  
and  
25:23  
intelligence operations will target  
25:25  
academics and researchers and recruit  
25:28  
uh people at various companies in our  
25:31  
country and will often make contact  
25:35  
through  
25:36  
professional networking sites i am not  
25:38  
immune from this uh here mandy which i'm  
25:41  
sure is her given name uh reached out to  
25:44  
me on linkedin as i get to the end of my  
25:46  
career i put up a linkedin page and it  
25:48

wasn't very long before mandy wanted to  
25:51  
be friends uh for those of you who don't  
25:53  
know the us government isn't really  
25:56  
enamored with tick-tock but i'm sure  
25:58  
it's okay because you note down here  
26:00  
that the culture there is magical so i'm  
26:02  
sure it's okay to accept that uh  
26:04  
linkedin connection i just uh  
26:06  
screenshotted this as uh for my future  
26:09  
lectures because it was something i had  
26:11  
talked about in the past and here it was  
26:14  
uh actually happened to me but not only  
26:17  
that but more interestingly is my  
26:20  
uh my two sons who are young males in  
26:24  
their early twenties were approached by  
26:27  
asian individuals attractive females on  
26:30  
their social media right after i ignored  
26:34  
this uh  
26:35  
this connection request and certainly um  
26:38  
there they don't mind clicking on  
26:40  
connections with attractive uh females  
26:42  
from other countries but they came to me  
26:45  
having had the counter intelligence  
26:47  
lecture that i give my children uh being  
26:50  
sons of an fbi agent and i said yeah

26:53  
that's because of me thanks and uh they  
26:55  
ignored those connections so this does  
26:58  
happen and it's something you're  
27:01  
probably not very familiar with or  
27:03  
haven't heard much of but it does happen  
27:06  
all over our country every day happens  
27:09  
to people in the ieee as well  
27:13  
um and quickly what can we do to protect  
27:16  
ourselves i tell everybody call your  
27:18  
local fbi and partner with them uh  
27:22  
corporations who are out there can get  
27:23  
better lectures uh than this brief  
27:26  
introduction and can get information on  
27:29  
risks and conflicts of interest we speak  
27:32  
to boards we speak to executives we talk  
27:35  
to administrators at research  
27:37  
institutions all over the country so get  
27:40  
with your local fbi and ask for their  
27:43  
private sector coordinator there's one  
27:46  
in every fbi office and they will be  
27:49  
able to assist you in protecting  
27:52  
yourselves and certainly they can hook  
27:54  
you up with the cyber uh crime squad i  
27:57  
worked in computer hacking for a dozen  
27:59

years i was on the cyber crime squad and  
28:02  
even though i left it to work other  
28:03  
matters i never got away from cyber  
28:05  
crime so i still go out there and  
28:07  
lecture on business email compromise and  
28:10  
ransomware and hacking and  
28:12  
uh dark web and all of these other  
28:15  
subjects but i wanted to introduce you  
28:17  
to the subject of uh foreign influence  
28:20  
and espionage um something you probably  
28:23  
don't get a lot of at your regular uh  
28:25  
meetings and uh i thank you  
28:31  
thank you very much scott um  
28:34  
if you have any questions please post  
28:37  
them in q a  
28:39  
and it's my pleasure to introduce our  
28:41  
next speaker  
28:44  
dr dan shoemaker  
28:46  
dr dan schumacher received a doctorate  
28:49  
from the university of michigan in 1978  
28:52  
he taught at michigan state university  
28:54  
and then moved to the directorship of  
28:56  
the information systems function for the  
28:58  
medical schools at msu  
29:00  
he held a joint teaching at department

29:02  
chair positions at mercy college of  
29:04  
detroit  
29:05  
when mercy was consolidated with the  
29:07  
university of detroit in 1990 he moved  
29:09  
to the business school to chair their  
29:11  
department of computer information  
29:13  
systems  
29:14  
he attended the organizational rollout  
29:16  
of the discipline of software  
29:18  
engineering at the carnegie mellon  
29:20  
university software engineering  
29:21  
institute  
29:23  
in the fall of 1987 and he was already  
29:26  
teaching an sei based software  
29:29  
engineering curriculum which he  
29:30  
established as a separate degree program  
29:32  
to the mba within the  
29:35  
udm college of business administration  
29:38  
dr showmaker specific areas of  
29:40  
scholarship publication and teaching  
29:42  
were the process-based stages of the  
29:44  
waterfall specifications sqa and  
29:47  
acceptance sustainment he was also a  
29:50  
primary consultant in the detroit area  
29:52



on the cmm cmmi  
29:55  
dr schumacher's transition into cyber  
29:57  
security came as a result of the audit  
30:00  
and compliance elements of that body of  
30:02  
knowledge as well as the long  
30:04  
established  
30:05  
sqa scm elements of their curriculum  
30:09  
they were designated the 39th center of  
30:11  
academic excellence by the nsa at west  
30:14  
point in 2004 and they have tried to  
30:17  
stay on the leading edge in the  
30:18  
architectural aspects of cyber security  
30:20  
systems design and implementation as  
30:22  
well as software assurance  
30:25  
as a result of dr schumacher's  
30:27  
associations with nsa and his interest  
30:30  
in software assurance he participated in  
30:33  
the earliest meetings of the software  
30:34  
assurance initiative  
30:36  
he was one of the three authors of the  
30:38  
common body of knowledge to produce  
30:40  
acquire and sustain software and he  
30:42  
chaired the workforce education and  
30:44  
training committee from 2007 to 2010.  
30:48  
he was chair of workforce training and

30:50  
education for the software assurance  
30:52  
initiative at dhs  
30:54  
and he was subject matter expert for uh  
30:57  
you know for nice  
30:59  
security provision  
31:01  
dr shoemaker was also a subject matter  
31:03  
expert  
31:04  
for the  
31:06  
human security 2017.  
31:09  
he also published frequently in the  
31:11  
build security and website  
31:13  
this exposure led to a grant to develop  
31:16  
curricula for software assurance and the  
31:18  
founding of the center for cyber  
31:19  
security where he currently resides the  
31:22  
center is a free-standing academic unit  
31:24  
in the college of liberal arts which is  
31:26  
the administrative locus for research  
31:29  
centers within udm  
31:31  
dr shoemaker's final significant grant  
31:34  
was from the department of defense to  
31:36  
develop a curriculum and teaching and  
31:38  
course materials for secure acquisition  
31:41  
in conjunction with the institute for  
31:42

defense analysis and the national  
31:44  
defense university  
31:46  
a book was subsequently published by crc  
31:49  
press  
31:52  
welcome dr shoemaker  
31:58  
okay where am i  
32:02  
um  
32:04  
i can hear me i can't see me  
32:07  
we can see you we can hear you we can  
32:09  
see you and hear you okay well then i'm  
32:12  
here i  
32:12  
am um  
32:15  
greetings everybody  
32:17  
i uh  
32:18  
you know i when i do these things i try  
32:20  
to think about something that the group  
32:22  
would find interesting  
32:24  
so uh what i came up with  
32:26  
uh was pretty well covered by the first  
32:28  
two people and so i guess i'll just say  
32:31  
next speaker  
32:33  
um  
32:34  
i let me  
32:36  
get my  
32:38  
slides up

32:51

um

32:53

when i do these

32:54

ieee visits i

32:56

try to come up with something that is

32:59

sort of fits with the

33:01

the group i'm talking to

33:03

um

33:04

most of the time i end up talking about

33:06

supply chain risk management which is my

33:09

alleged area of expertise

33:11

um and um i

33:14

thanks to the solarwinds people i i find

33:16

myself talking to a lot of a lot of

33:18

folks about that but

33:20

um since this was ai

33:22

i kind of

33:24

uh you know sort of

33:27

tried to come up with something that

33:28

would be at least fit within that kind

33:30

of context and uh what i came up with

33:33

was uh

33:34

some work i did back in

33:36

2008 uh was it was published basically

33:39

in a book

33:40

um  
33:41  
uh uh it kind of on the topic of cyber  
33:43  
crime  
33:44  
um and then what do i end up doing is  
33:46  
following an fbi agent so you know you  
33:49  
can take for what i've got to say uh you  
33:51  
know for whatever it's worth  
33:54  
but it's a modest proposal and it fits  
33:56  
within kind of an ia context so  
33:59  
um  
34:01  
what you've seen so far in the first two  
34:03  
presenters uh is true  
34:07  
we've got a worldwide problem with cyber  
34:10  
crime or cyber attacks take your pick  
34:13  
um  
34:14  
microsoft did a survey that was really  
34:16  
eye-opening published back in december  
34:19  
uh about the the kind of the the cost of  
34:23  
of cyber attacks  
34:25  
uh global cost um that's not just in the  
34:28  
u.s  
34:29  
um  
34:30  
500  
34:31  
billion dollars with a b in 2015  
34:35  
um and kind of we worked on the problem

34:38  
and  
34:39  
by 2020 it escalated to 2 trillion  
34:43  
dollars  
34:46  
globally  
34:47  
and um  
34:49  
by the time 2024 rolls around the  
34:52  
estimate is 6 trillion  
34:54  
so uh it looks like uh cyber crime is a  
34:58  
growth industry it's something that you  
35:00  
know i don't recommend you buy stock in  
35:02  
but  
35:02  
um and i guess it's because it's so easy  
35:06  
um  
35:07  
one of the things you might want to use  
35:08  
as a sense of context is  
35:11  
that 6 trillion is the gross national  
35:13  
product of england germany and france uh  
35:16  
you know  
35:17  
and so you know that's kind of a pretty  
35:19  
big hit  
35:21  
into in the global economy  
35:23  
um  
35:24  
now the reason why obviously and people  
35:26  
the first two presenters talked about  
35:28

this at great length uh is the nature of  
35:31  
the internet  
35:32  
um  
35:33  
it's anonymous and it's borderless and  
35:35  
so how in the world do you  
35:39  
defend against or prosecute  
35:42  
some guy who is sitting somewhere you  
35:44  
know not where um attacking you  
35:48  
uh maybe from the other side of the  
35:50  
world  
35:50  
um  
35:52  
and um it's possible in certain  
35:54  
countries that if they're successful in  
35:56  
doing that to you um they may end up  
35:59  
with a uh you know a medal uh  
36:02  
to as a reward um and you know basically  
36:05  
what you've got to say is a bunch of uh  
36:09  
cultures um that um are not necessarily  
36:14  
um going to be  
36:17  
big fans of the united states uh and  
36:20  
here we are sitting there kind of like a  
36:22  
big fat uh  
36:23  
plum waiting to be picked off a tree and  
36:26  
so  
36:27  
the internet itself makes it almost

36:29  
impossible to to um  
36:34  
find and catch the bad guys  
36:36  
um  
36:38  
obviously  
36:39  
some are willing to lead footprints but  
36:42  
the idea basically is that  
36:44  
um  
36:45  
the internet criminal is what's known as  
36:47  
an unknown subject um and the only way  
36:51  
to really kind of address an unknown  
36:53  
subject is by  
36:54  
the classical  
36:56  
approach known as profiling  
37:00  
which basically uses big behavioral  
37:02  
signature signatures  
37:04  
now profiling has been around for a  
37:05  
really long time  
37:07  
first profile was done in  
37:09  
for jack the ripper i don't know 18  
37:11  
something or other  
37:12  
uh and it's developed  
37:16  
as a  
37:17  
a aspect of criminology for years i mean  
37:20  
since then um  
37:22



and there are  
37:24  
um you know techniques  
37:26  
uh that are  
37:28  
well recognized well known and used in  
37:31  
in in in  
37:33  
criminal justice  
37:34  
uh talking about them from a uh  
37:38  
a cyber standpoint uh it's kind of a  
37:41  
novel thing  
37:42  
because the key basically is the  
37:45  
behavioral signatures  
37:46  
um  
37:47  
it's all based on collecting uh what  
37:50  
amounts to evidence of uh you know kind  
37:53  
of the nature of the crime uh all crimes  
37:56  
have motivated opportunity and so you  
37:58  
can kind of classify what you see and  
38:01  
what you read  
38:02  
in those actions as um you know a means  
38:06  
of kind of uh characterizing the  
38:08  
individual that that's basically  
38:09  
committed to crime  
38:11  
um  
38:13  
now  
38:14  
since it's done on a digital device that

38:15  
actually makes it sort of easier uh  
38:19  
because uh it's possible to build a  
38:22  
inductive profile uh using evidence that  
38:25  
you gather  
38:27  
from the actual actions that are taken  
38:29  
on the um you know by the individual uh  
38:33  
and recorded uh or at least available to  
38:36  
be  
38:37  
you know kind of accessed through system  
38:39  
logs and things like that um then  
38:41  
essentially what you've got is a pattern  
38:44  
of behavior that may or may not be used  
38:46  
to kind of create a typology and that  
38:48  
typology is something that you can then  
38:50  
use as a basis for  
38:52  
either investigating or  
38:55  
preventing a type of  
38:58  
a uh you know  
39:01  
certain types of attack criminal attacks  
39:05  
um  
39:06  
things like system logs and system level  
39:08  
reconstructions of attack behavior uh  
39:12  
you know  
39:13  
are are first of all  
39:16

they exist uh you know in the sense that  
39:18  
that it's something that's part of  
39:20  
system processing um and at the same  
39:23  
time uh you know there are timelines and  
39:26  
things like that that you can use  
39:28  
as a basis for  
39:30  
um  
39:32  
kind of not kind of for for following  
39:34  
the text  
39:37  
and characterizing  
39:40  
the timestamp time pattern analysis  
39:43  
again is a fairly common um  
39:46  
method for uh incident response um  
39:49  
and  
39:50  
um  
39:51  
we were using uh  
39:54  
from a standpoint of looking at  
39:56  
um  
39:57  
the kind of coding  
39:59  
attacks  
40:00  
uh things like stylistic and linguistic  
40:03  
characteristics all that's something  
40:06  
that the machine keeps just simply as  
40:08  
part of its processing  
40:10  
but at the same time you have a

40:14  
opportunity to use that as evidence or  
40:17  
as a basis at least for building  
40:19  
profiles  
40:21  
of of criminal activity or if you want  
40:25  
to use the simple term attacks  
40:27  
uh  
40:28  
on uh and and those attacks basically  
40:30  
can can be uh formed into  
40:33  
a um  
40:35  
type of  
40:36  
of uh  
40:38  
a proactive response  
40:40  
uh  
40:41  
now the idea here basically is that and  
40:44  
those of you who are sitting listening  
40:46  
to this are saying well that that sounds  
40:48  
like network uh intrusion detection  
40:51  
automated intrusion detection systems  
40:54  
which is true  
40:55  
but at the same time you can extend that  
40:57  
into  
40:58  
um you know the realm of actual um you  
41:03  
know any kind of progressive action  
41:05  
taken against a  
41:07

target  
41:10  
a targeted resource  
41:12  
and that basically is something that is  
41:16  
um  
41:18  
then  
41:19  
that you can essentially build a defense  
41:21  
against or respond to as appropriate  
41:25  
um now since this is an ai  
41:28  
uh session uh the thing that i wanted to  
41:31  
raise is the fact that this can be  
41:32  
managed by artificial intelligence  
41:35  
now what you end up with is  
41:37  
uh you know three general types of of of  
41:41  
uh ai type um  
41:44  
profile  
41:46  
management systems uh one is simply to  
41:48  
have a baseline of profiles  
41:50  
uh which then ended up as a pretty much  
41:54  
like a virus checker you know to  
41:55  
identify uh  
41:58  
its criminal behavior  
42:00  
at the point of a tag  
42:02  
um and then do something appropriate in  
42:04  
terms of either shutting off the system  
42:06  
or shutting out the access or even just

42:09  
sending a signal that says we're being  
42:11  
attacked um  
42:13  
you can also use baseline anomalies  
42:15  
which is basically the same thing you  
42:17  
got a profile but in this particular  
42:19  
case you get something that just simply  
42:21  
doesn't fit inside the profile and with  
42:24  
the assumption that uh if it's anomalous  
42:27  
it's probably enemy action  
42:29  
and that can actually  
42:31  
identify things that are not necessarily  
42:34  
a uh  
42:35  
what do you call it captured in the  
42:38  
behavior patterns  
42:39  
that you've used to build the profile  
42:43  
the problem with that one is can  
42:44  
generate  
42:45  
false positives a lot of false positives  
42:48  
and so it's not something that's really  
42:49  
very practical right now and last but  
42:51  
not least you can have anomalous  
42:53  
processing  
42:54  
which is uh  
42:56  
we'll identify the attack as it's  
42:58

happening because essentially what's  
43:00  
going on in terms of the normal sequence  
43:02  
of events inside the computer is not  
43:06  
it's not kosher it's not something that  
43:09  
would be normal if that's the case um  
43:12  
you know you can get a warning at the  
43:14  
point where the attack's occurring  
43:17  
the problem with that again is this  
43:18  
complex is kind of hard to manage and  
43:21  
all this basically is nothing more than  
43:23  
me talking about  
43:24  
um kind of some novel approach that you  
43:27  
might take based on what amounts to  
43:30  
well-established  
43:33  
uh processes  
43:35  
uh both uh from a criminal justice  
43:37  
standpoint and also from the standpoint  
43:40  
of computing  
43:41  
and um that from my you know is  
43:44  
basically all i have to talk about here  
43:46  
uh any questions any discussions you  
43:48  
want i guess i'll handle that at the end  
43:54  
thank you very much  
43:55  
dan  
43:56  
and our last speaker today is dick

43:59  
wilkins principal technology liaison for  
44:01  
phoenix technologies limited a us-based  
44:04  
independent platform firmware  
44:05  
development company and also an  
44:07  
associate professor of computer science  
44:09  
and cyber security at thomas college in  
44:11  
central maine recently retired  
44:14  
he sits on the board of the unified  
44:16  
extensible firmware interface forum and  
44:19  
leads our security response team he's a  
44:22  
leader in the ieee at the section level  
44:24  
and in the computer society and is  
44:26  
active in the acm and pmi he has over 30  
44:29  
years industry experience in roles from  
44:32  
software engineer to director of  
44:33  
engineering at companies like hugh  
44:35  
packard digital equipment corporation  
44:37  
microsoft amazon and several smaller  
44:39  
firms  
44:40  
professor wilkins holds a phd in  
44:42  
computer science from nova southeastern  
44:45  
university a master of science in  
44:47  
computer science from the national  
44:49  
technological university  
44:51



and a bachelor of arts in public  
44:53  
administration from saint thomas  
44:54  
university in miami florida  
44:57  
welcome dick  
45:00  
thank you very much dr upton i  
45:02  
appreciate the  
45:04  
introduction um let me go ahead and get  
45:07  
my slides up here  
45:09  
[Music]  
45:16  
okay  
45:18  
so  
45:19  
i'm going to take this  
45:21  
from the general to  
45:23  
a little more specific i'm going to talk  
45:26  
about ai in relation to security around  
45:30  
platform firmware  
45:32  
now most of you may say well gee  
45:35  
isn't that platform firmware stuff uh  
45:38  
something that runs in the first couple  
45:40  
of milliseconds or you know first few  
45:42  
seconds at most of the computer system  
45:45  
as it boots up and then kind of goes  
45:47  
away and  
45:48  
why do i care and what does this  
45:50  
interest me

45:51  
uh what  
45:53  
why do i care about the security of that  
45:54  
particularly  
45:57  
in fact  
45:59  
it's a serious problem in uh that i'm  
46:02  
going to be demonstrating to you but in  
46:04  
our first presentation today a couple of  
46:07  
those earlier and most impactful attacks  
46:11  
and particularly  
46:13  
notorious is the saudi arabian  
46:17  
aramco attack was a firmware attack  
46:20  
where they exfiltrated a bunch of  
46:23  
data from those systems and then bricked  
46:26  
them  
46:27  
and turn  
46:28  
over 35 000 computers into boat anchors  
46:32  
and the company had to completely  
46:34  
replace their entire it infrastructure  
46:38  
so this is an example of how serious  
46:40  
firmware attacks can be  
46:44  
so  
46:48  
there we go so firmware is critical  
46:52  
it's the runs right after power up  
46:54  
initials that initializes the cpu and  
46:57

hardware protections updates the cpu  
47:00  
microcode  
47:01  
it controls the highly secure inter  
47:04  
processor modes that even the operating  
47:06  
system and hypervisors can't touch  
47:09  
it protects non-volatile memory system  
47:11  
updates etc it securely boots the os and  
47:15  
maintains a route of trust from the cpu  
47:19  
hardware itself that power up through  
47:21  
all of the initialization and boot  
47:23  
loaders and everything else  
47:25  
out to an operating system and  
47:27  
theoretically all the way out to an  
47:29  
application so that the system can be  
47:32  
proven to be secure at least until  
47:34  
the app runs  
47:36  
now once it's online and connecting to  
47:39  
the internet of course all bets are off  
47:41  
and it can be attacked but  
47:43  
vendors software vendors and operating  
47:45  
system vendors have been working really  
47:47  
hard over the last  
47:49  
many years to well ever since the  
47:53  
internet  
47:54  
system started getting connected to the

47:56  
internet to protect their stuff  
47:59  
and so it turns out that um what's left  
48:02  
is firmware  
48:04  
um continuing with my list here it can  
48:07  
attest to the system security the  
48:09  
firmware can and provide evidence to an  
48:11  
external verifier  
48:13  
that the system is okay  
48:15  
um and it provides critical services to  
48:18  
os os's and applications while they're  
48:20  
running and people don't realize that's  
48:23  
going on but the firmware is still there  
48:25  
and still operational and lastly it's  
48:29  
persistent  
48:31  
if you can modify change or hack a  
48:34  
system firmware then  
48:37  
it's there potentially forever  
48:40  
and even wiping the system and starting  
48:42  
with a new disk drive or something like  
48:44  
that can't remove it  
48:46  
so as  
48:47  
paraphrasing a google engineer from a  
48:50  
few a few years ago if you don't own  
48:52  
your firmware your firmware owns you  
48:57

so  
48:57  
what is platform firmware it's you know  
49:00  
it's the thing that i've been talking  
49:01  
about here but  
49:03  
depending on the implementation and what  
49:05  
it's for and what kind of platform it is  
49:08  
it can be thousands of lines to millions  
49:10  
of lines of code  
49:13  
most commonly nowadays it follows the  
49:15  
open  
49:16  
uefi standard  
49:18  
and as the footnote here on the slides  
49:21  
is the unified extensible firmware  
49:23  
interface specification that defines the  
49:27  
interfaces between  
49:29  
the operating system and applications  
49:32  
and  
49:32  
the underlying firmware  
49:35  
during the boot process and then after  
49:36  
the system is up and running  
49:39  
there is a custom  
49:42  
most implementations of this are  
49:44  
customized from an  
49:46  
open source tiana core implementation  
49:49  
that's code name from when it was first

49:52  
submitted to the open source  
49:54  
there are also older  
49:57  
boot firmware called u-boot and core  
50:00  
boot are the most common they're also  
50:02  
open source they're typically used for  
50:05  
embedded and iot devices and a lot for  
50:09  
phones and things like that they form  
50:11  
the basis for some of the chrome books  
50:13  
and things like that out there but um  
50:16  
nowadays they're now standardizing on  
50:20  
the uefi interfaces so even while it's a  
50:22  
completely different implementation  
50:24  
they're doing uefi things  
50:27  
lastly there's linux boot  
50:30  
basically a  
50:31  
minimal linux  
50:34  
piece of software that's used to boot  
50:36  
full linux  
50:38  
this is more of an experimental thing  
50:40  
that's going on and a lot of people are  
50:42  
playing around with it but it's really  
50:45  
uncommon in  
50:46  
commercial systems  
50:49  
modern implementations of this of all of  
50:52

these use hashing and signatures to make  
50:55  
sure they're running secure and  
50:56  
unmodified code  
50:58  
they also use secure updates in any  
51:00  
rollback to make sure that nobody is  
51:04  
providing them bad code over the  
51:06  
internet and causing them to update or  
51:09  
roll back to older unsecure code etc  
51:13  
they also tend to measure themselves  
51:15  
also referred to as measured boot  
51:18  
so that they can attest  
51:21  
to their security and the fact they've  
51:23  
been unmodified to an external verifier  
51:28  
that may control their access to  
51:29  
networks and things like that  
51:33  
as  
51:34  
these things that i've been talking  
51:36  
about here are best practices  
51:38  
they're the things that should be done  
51:40  
to make sure firmware is secure  
51:44  
but  
51:44  
many low-cost and iot devices embedded  
51:48  
systems and surprisingly and annoyingly  
51:52  
a lot of pcs and servers out there  
51:56  
don't follow this or they turn it off or

52:00  
and so they're not as secure as they  
52:02  
should be  
52:03  
but  
52:04  
this is not your 1970s bios the thing we  
52:09  
talked about you usually see  
52:12  
the industry continues to use the term  
52:14  
bios as shorthand for platform firmware  
52:17  
but it  
52:18  
really isn't anything like what ibm  
52:21  
created for their first pc back in the  
52:24  
1970s and early 80s  
52:27  
so  
52:28  
i put up this not  
52:31  
for any specific piece of information  
52:33  
but i want to point out just generally  
52:35  
the million line plus  
52:38  
bios is just the the first line in this  
52:42  
uh  
52:43  
chart of  
52:46  
the firmware that gets loaded on a  
52:47  
machine  
52:49  
um but there's all kinds of other code  
52:52  
that runs during the boot process  
52:55  
that secures the system updates the  
52:58



microcode this is for a currently uh  
53:01  
widely available  
53:03  
intel processor an example of the bill  
53:06  
of materials of the firmware that  
53:08  
gets loaded at boot time and initialized  
53:11  
and run during the startup of an intel  
53:14  
uh cpu so the details don't matter here  
53:17  
i'm just pointing out there's a lot of  
53:18  
stuff here and it's really important and  
53:22  
if it gets  
53:23  
damaged in some way by a hacker bad  
53:26  
things can happen  
53:29  
oops  
53:30  
we somehow got ahead of ourselves here  
53:35  
okay  
53:37  
so  
53:38  
this is an ai presentation so i want to  
53:40  
make sure that we tie this back to how  
53:43  
does ai fit into this issue of security  
53:47  
of platform firmware so if i'm an i.t  
53:50  
manager i want to know all the devices  
53:51  
in my system are following the best  
53:54  
practices and are properly protected  
53:56  
they're doing the right thing with their  
53:57  
firmware because again if any of them

54:01  
is compromised they can all be  
54:03  
compromised and  
54:05  
bad things can happen throughout the  
54:07  
network  
54:08  
i've seen baseboard management  
54:11  
controllers in multi-million dollar  
54:14  
servers with hundreds or hundreds of  
54:17  
processors anyway uh where the baseboard  
54:20  
management controller an old piece of  
54:23  
firmware and software that  
54:26  
manages the system operation where that  
54:28  
thing has been penetrated  
54:30  
and it has spread  
54:33  
an infection to every virtual machine  
54:36  
running across hundreds of processors  
54:39  
within the same box  
54:40  
and then it can then expand out to the  
54:42  
entire network  
54:44  
so  
54:46  
i want to be able to scan all the  
54:47  
devices in my network in real time and  
54:50  
identify vulnerable damaged devices  
54:53  
anything bad that could be going on and  
54:56  
i want to  
54:57

identify devices at risk even if they're  
54:59  
not currently behaving badly intrusion  
55:03  
detection systems are fine monitoring  
55:05  
the network using ai to look for  
55:08  
patterns and bad behaviors and identify  
55:10  
devices that have been damaged but  
55:13  
gee wouldn't it be nice to be able to  
55:16  
identify them before they go rogue  
55:19  
before they start  
55:20  
exfiltrating data from my from my  
55:23  
network etc  
55:24  
so  
55:27  
but there are thousands of devices  
55:30  
they're running firm ware from many  
55:31  
sources and of many types  
55:33  
i've talked in the previous slide about  
55:36  
gee how much there is out there  
55:38  
um how can i make sure that they're not  
55:41  
vulnerable they're not damaged by an  
55:44  
attacker that they're not  
55:47  
in some way going to come and bite me in  
55:49  
the rear end  
55:51  
so  
55:52  
one option is use ai machine learnings  
55:55  
to scan them and evaluate their their

55:58  
assets  
55:59  
so here's a  
56:01  
kind of a marketing picture really of  
56:03  
what a system might look like that does  
56:06  
that  
56:07  
we have  
56:09  
a user interface  
56:12  
it's step one there that you can  
56:15  
schedule an immediate scan of your of  
56:17  
your network or  
56:19  
have a  
56:20  
a scan that runs periodically or  
56:22  
whatever  
56:24  
then we have scanning software the red  
56:26  
ball in the middle  
56:28  
that goes out and touches everything on  
56:30  
my network  
56:31  
and  
56:33  
takes a look at the firmware  
56:36  
that's running there its attributes its  
56:38  
configuration etc  
56:41  
and then um  
56:43  
then sends that data out to a secure  
56:45  
cloud  
56:46

which runs ai algorithms to uh  
56:50  
identify what's going on here  
56:53  
then  
56:54  
very quickly  
56:55  
because we're running out of time  
56:58  
we want to extract  
57:01  
an image of what's going on we want to  
57:02  
scout it for improper configuration  
57:06  
valid code signatures etc known  
57:08  
vulnerabilities this can be done without  
57:10  
machine learning but then we can use  
57:14  
machine learning simulate the code flow  
57:17  
to make sure a chain of trust is  
57:19  
maintained regenerate c code from the  
57:21  
binary image do static code analysis etc  
57:25  
we can identify inevitabilities observe  
57:27  
risky code practices etc  
57:29  
we can  
57:30  
identify issues and we can take  
57:32  
automatic action or we can tell an i.t  
57:35  
manager that this device is suspect and  
57:37  
you want to evaluate it and do manual  
57:40  
analysis  
57:42  
and  
57:43  
lastly before i wrap up here i just want

57:46  
to say we can apply this to other  
57:48  
potential kinds of networks how about 5g  
57:50  
networks with phones and tablets and iot  
57:53  
how about smart vehicle systems autos  
57:55  
trucks etc and what about that  
57:58  
autonomous vehicle wouldn't you like to  
58:00  
have somebody checking that the  
58:01  
driverless delivery truck firmware  
58:04  
that's traveling in the lane next to you  
58:05  
on the highway is actually secure and  
58:08  
safe  
58:09  
and there are potentially many other uh  
58:12  
things where we could apply this to so  
58:15  
anyway  
58:16  
that's it for me thank you  
58:23  
so unfortunately we're out of time um  
58:26  
excellent presentations thank you very  
58:28  
much it's been a pleasure to moderate  
58:29  
this panel and the panelists been typing  
58:32  
their answers for some of the questions  
58:33  
from the audience into the q a thank you  
58:36  
very much  
58:37  
and for closing remarks here's dr eberty  
58:40  
thanks very much uh again  
58:43

julia our moderator and also our  
58:45  
speakers and also those of you who  
58:47  
attended this live presentation or  
58:49  
watching the recording later if you put  
58:51  
your question q a and the speakers were  
58:53  
not able to answer them live will post  
58:57  
their answers later on on our ai website  
59:00  
i just want to bring to your attention  
59:02  
that if you like this presentation we  
59:03  
have our october 7th event coming up ai  
59:06  
in space and aerospace event and also uh  
59:09  
we have our november four events ar in  
59:12  
health care and we have nasa and nih  
59:15  
speakers coming in so thanks very much  
59:17  
again everyone for joining us today and  
59:19  
uh you can watch the recording of this  
59:21  
later  
59:22  
uh on our website if you would like a  
59:25  
pdh or cu certificate you can just email  
59:28  
your name and email address and your  
59:30  
affiliation to the email i shared in the  
59:32  
chat box um.ai at main.tdu i received  
59:36  
your certificate so thanks again and see  
59:38  
you next time

*The University of Maine in Orono is the flagship campus of the University of Maine System, where efforts toward racial equity are ongoing, as is the commitment to facing a complicated and not always just institutional history. The University recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot nation, where issues of water and its territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations — the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac — through kinship, alliances, and diplomacy. The university also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.*