



CYBERCON XI
REGISTRATION GUIDE
MAY 13-14, 2026 | WEST DES MOINES SHERATON

Intelligence. Defense. Resilience

CyberCon XI brings together broadband leaders, cybersecurity professionals, and industry experts to examine the realities of today's rapidly evolving threat landscape. Through expert-led sessions, real-world perspectives, and practical discussions, this conference will explore how organizations are strengthening defenses, improving incident response, and preparing their networks for emerging risks.

Attendees will hear from industry experts, connect with peers, and walk away with real strategies to protect the infrastructure and communities they serve.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH

**12:30 – 1:00 PM | REGISTRATION AND VISIT
SPONSOR TABLES**

1:00 PM | WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1:05 – 2:15 PM | GENERAL SESSION

**AI Without the Hype: A Practical, People-First Guide for
Small & Rural Broadband Providers**

Grant Evers, NISC

Artificial Intelligence is no longer an enterprise-only technology, but for small and mid-size broadband and communications providers, separating real value from hype can be difficult. This session is designed to meet ICA members wherever they are on their AI journey, from early exploration to active investment. We will demystify what AI actually is (and is not), examine where it delivers practical value for small teams, and discuss what providers should have in place before purchasing or deploying AI solutions. Through real-world examples and hard-earned lessons, the session will explore how AI can act as a workforce multiplier in difficult labor markets, improve operational consistency, and support better decision-making without requiring large budgets or data science teams. The discussion will remain vendor-agnostic and grounded in reality, focusing on readiness, governance, and people as much as technology. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of where AI fits in their organization today, what pitfalls to avoid, and how to take pragmatic next steps over the next 12 months.

2:20 – 3:15 PM | GENERAL SESSION

Breaking Trust on Purpose: Zero Trust Architecture
Jeff Frickel & Ryan Pieken, OXEN Technology

Zero Trust is often discussed as an architecture, but for telecom providers it is fundamentally about reducing risk in highly available, always-on networks that attackers actively target. From a CISO perspective, this session frames Zero Trust as a strategy to challenge legacy trust models, limit blast radius, and protect critical communications infrastructure. From a Director of Cybersecurity perspective, we examine how Zero Trust

principles improve visibility, detection, and containment during real-world threats such as credential compromise and lateral movement. Attendees will gain a practical understanding of how Zero Trust thinking strengthens both executive decision-making and day-to-day cyber defense in telecom environments.

3:15 – 3:45 PM | BREAK

3:45 – 4:30 PM | NON-TECHNICAL BREAKOUT

Building a Resilient Organization: Cybersecurity Trends and Best Practices

Eric Petersen, Leavitt Group

This session delivers a concise, executive-level view of today's most common and costly cyber risks, grounded in real insurance claim data rather than theory. Drawing on insights from hundreds of cyber claims, the presentation connects what actually causes losses—ransomware, social engineering, system outages, and human error—with the practical controls that consistently reduce impact. As an insurance advisor who sees these events unfold every day, the presenter is uniquely positioned to translate claim outcomes into clear, actionable guidance for leadership teams. This presentation has been delivered to organizations across the country and refined through real-world discussions with executives who want to understand cyber risk in business terms and make informed, defensible decisions.

3:45 – 4:30 PM | TECHNICAL BREAKOUT

Battlefield 2025: Your Network

Shira Dankner, NineStar Connect

Almost every cyber attack involves the network at some level, but it is also an oft-neglected part of an internal cybersecurity strategy. This presentation seeks to shed light on why there should be more focus on hardening the network itself, as well as offer some strategies for how to do so. We will explore the concepts of zero trust, segmentation, honeypots and more.

4:30 – 5:45 PM | NETWORKING RECEPTION

THURSDAY, MAY 14TH

8:30 – 9:15 AM | GENERAL SESSION

Road Maps for When Disasters Happen – Lessons Learned from Incident Response & Disaster Recovery

Joe Six, Moderator, Calix

Topher Becker, South Slope Communications

Jeff Frickel, OXEN Technology

Eric Petersen, Leavitt Group

When a cyber incident strikes, how you respond can make all the difference. This three-speaker session brings together an IT professional who navigated a real-world ransomware attack, an insurance broker who will walk through disaster recovery from the insurance side, and an IT consultant who will outline the safeguards and preparation that help organizations prevent incidents and recover faster. Attendees will leave with practical insights on response, recovery, and readiness for today's evolving cyber threats.

9:20 – 10:05 AM | GENERAL SESSION

The AI Paradox: Sword, Shield, and Target

Travis Abrams, UNS Cybersecurity Services

This session explores the intersection of artificial intelligence and information security by framing today's threat landscape around three key roles AI can play: Sword, Shield, and Target. Attendees will hear examples of how large language models (LLMs) are being used to enhance social engineering and other adversarial attacks, as well as how AI-driven Analytics and automated response tools help defenders detect and respond to threats. The session will also cover the emerging challenge of securing the AI itself, including how organizations can protect machine learning models from risks such as data poisoning, model inversion, and jailbreaking. Attendees will leave with a practical understanding of how to design a defense-in-depth strategy that account for both the power and the vulnerabilities of AI-driven systems. For broadband providers operating critical networks, understanding how AI can both strengthen defenses and introduce new risks is becoming an essential part of modern security strategy.

10:05 – 10:30 AM | BREAK

10:30 – 11:15 AM | NON-TECHNICAL BREAKOUT

Inside the Mind of a Hacker! Open-Source Intelligence

Ann Scripture, Vantage Point Solutions

Have you ever received a phishing email or a vishing call and wondered how this person got your phone number, email address, or any other type of personal information? Your information is only a couple of clicks away! In this interactive seminar, we will discuss how malicious actors collect personal information, how they utilize that information to target you, how you can identify phishing emails, and ways to limit your digital footprint.

10:30 – 11:15 AM | TECHNICAL BREAKOUT

Network Security Best Practices and Security Operations Fundamentals

Matt Glosson, Calix

What insight do you have into what's really happening on your network? Many service providers focus on monitoring capacity and availability, which is critical since the network

is the lifeblood of the business. But as cybersecurity incidents continue to rise, having a clear strategy for detecting and responding to security events is just as important. By embracing the CIA triad—Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability—and developing even a basic Security Operations Center (SOC), organizations can strengthen their security posture, improve response capabilities, and potentially reduce cybersecurity insurance costs. This session explores the core building blocks of a SOC and how they provide a practical framework for security monitoring and incident response.

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM | NON-TECHNICAL BREAKOUT

From Connectivity to Cyber Safe Community Leadership

Corey Munson, PC Matic

Cybersecurity incidents increasingly affect the same small businesses, schools, clinics, local governments, and households that Iowa broadband providers serve every day. For providers, cybersecurity now touches customer trust, support costs, network reputation, and long-term growth. This session reframes cybersecurity as community infrastructure rather than just a technical service. While policies and tools matter, real cyber resilience is built locally through behavior, relationships, and execution. Broadband providers already have trusted community ties and are uniquely positioned to influence cyber outcomes in ways centralized programs cannot. Attendees will explore a Cyber Safe Community framework that turns Iowa's existing cyber ecosystem into practical local action through schools, libraries, chambers, workforce groups, and industry partners. The focus is on strengthening customers, reducing risk across provider footprints, and positioning broadband companies as cybersecurity leaders in their communities.

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM | TECHNICAL BREAKOUT

Cybersecurity Readiness in the Age of AI and Advanced Threats

Sean Balzer, Tenax Solutions

As organizations face increasingly sophisticated cyber-attacks and the rapid emergence of AI-driven technologies, traditional security practices are no longer enough. This session explores how to build a resilient cybersecurity program that integrates modern endpoint detection and response (EDR), aligns with established frameworks and compliance requirements, and incorporates practical risk management and performance metrics. Attendees will learn how to move from policy to practice, developing actionable strategies for AI readiness, risk assessment, incident planning and response, and measurable program performance that earns executive and board confidence.

12:00 – 12:30 PM | LUNCH

12:30 – 1:15 PM | GENERAL SESSION

The Cyber Threat Landscape: An FBI Perspective

SA Dean Neubauer, FBI Cyber Task Force

There have been several important developments over the past 18 months that are shaping today's security landscape. This session will highlight key trends, including the rise of the double-extortion ransomware model, increased exploitation of VPN and firewall devices, ATM jackpotting, and emerging malware techniques. Attendees will gain timely insights into how these threats are evolving and what organizations can do to strengthen their defenses.

1:15 PM | CLOSING COMMENTS

REGISTRATION DETAILS



REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.IACOMMUNICATIONSALL.ORG

[Online registration](#) allows for the option to be invoiced or to pay online.

REGISTRATION FEE

- ICA Member: \$305
- Non-Member: \$405
- Student: \$50

You must be logged into your member profile to access the discounted member pricing. If you need assistance with your member login, please contact [Allyssa Traver](#) at ICA.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Pre-conference registration will close on Friday, May 8. Onsite registrations will be accepted. An additional \$50 will be added to the registration fees listed above for any late and onsite registrations.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:

If you need to cancel your registration, the refund schedule will be enforced as follows.

- May 4 and earlier – 100% refund
- May 5 – 8 – 50% refund
- May 9 and after – no refunds issued.

Substitutions are allowed. Cancellations must be emailed to atraver@iacommunicationsall.com.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

There is a block of rooms available at the West Des Moines Sheraton at a group rate of \$139 plus tax. [Click here to make your reservations online](#). Reservations must be made by April 28, 2026, to guarantee the group rate.

CONSENT TO USE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES:

Registration and attendance at, or participation in, ICA meetings and other activities constitutes an agreement by the registrant to ICA's use and distribution (both now and in the future) of the registrant or attendee's image or voice in photographs, video, electronic reproductions and audio of such events and activities.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsoring CyberCon is a great opportunity to gain visibility with Iowa's telecommunications industry leaders. CyberCon is a packed two-day event that you will want to be a part of! [Click here for more information on sponsorship opportunities](#).



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