



MEMBER CONFERENCE CALL | AUGUST 27, 2024

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Ms. Christina Berger, the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) Designated Federal Officer, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), called the meeting to order. She stated that the NSTAC is a federal advisory committee, governed by the *Federal Advisory Committee Act* thus, the meeting was open to the public. She noted that no individuals registered to provide comment, but written comments would be accepted following the procedures outlined in the meeting's Federal Register Notice CISA-2024-0015, published on August 12, 2024. Ms. Berger conducted roll call and handed the meeting over to Mr. Scott Charney, Microsoft and NSTAC Chair.

Mr. Charney thanked Ms. Berger and all meeting participants for their attendance. He then acknowledged and thanked the distinguished government partners in attendance to include Mr. Harry Coker Jr., National Cyber Director, Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD); Ms. Caitlin Clarke, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technology at the National Security Council (NSC); and Mr. Nitin Natarajan, Deputy Director, CISA.

Mr. Charney provided a brief overview of the May 2024 NSTAC Member Meeting. He recalled the committee heard remarks from government partners on key national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) initiatives relevant to information and communications technologies. The NSTAC received an update from Ms. Anne Neuberger, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Cyber and Emerging Technology, NSC, on the administration's National Cybersecurity Strategy. Mr. Charney said the committee also received a keynote address from Mr. Coker, and an overview on government actions that are aligned with past NSTAC recommendations from Mr. Brandon Wales, former Executive Director, CISA. Lastly, the NSTAC received an update on the "Principles for Baseline Security Offerings from Cloud Service Providers" (Baseline Security Offerings) Subcommittee from the effort's co-chairs, Mr. Kevin Mandia, Google Cloud, and Ms. Maria Martinez Board Director and Technology Advisor.

Mr. Charney then invited each of the government partners to make opening remarks. Mr. Coker thanked Mr. Charney and the NSTAC members for their service to the nation and for the 2024 [*NSTAC Report to the President on Measuring and Incentivizing the Adoption of Cybersecurity Best Practices*](#). He noted that the administration has taken the NSTAC's recommendations on cyber regulatory harmonization and harnessing fundamental technology into consideration.

Mr. Coker also noted the administration is working to address many challenges that come with cyber infrastructure and security. He stated the duplicative compliance burdens that many communications companies face which are a major obstacle but praised Senators Gary Peters of Michigan and James Langford of Oklahoma on their efforts in the cyber community. Mr. Coker then referenced a few significant cyber related incidents the nation has faced involving oversight of supply chain and inventory management and stated that the administration continues to map and assess critical dependencies to combat eminent threats.

Mr. Coker encouraged NSTAC members to continue to focus on emerging technologies and the



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risks that come along with them and specifically mentioned Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC). He also referenced the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) recent release of new encryption algorithms designed to withstand attacks from quantum computers. Mr. Coker shared that many nations are investing heavily in quantum computing research and expressed satisfaction with the NSTAC's interest to discuss PQC as a study topic.

Mr. Coker ended by emphasizing the security of cloud infrastructure is essential to national and economic security. Lastly, he thanked the NSTAC for their ongoing efforts on the Baseline Security Offerings study and said he looks forward to hearing an update on the study. Mr. Charney thanked Mr. Coker for his remarks and invited Ms. Clarke to share her remarks.

Ms. Clarke thanked Mr. Charney and praised the NSTAC for bringing their unique perspectives to the committee. She noted that she looks forward to working with the committee on the current study topics. She also shared that the administration has made significant progress over the last few years and referenced the U.S. Cyber Trust Mark Program as one of the current successful initiatives. She stated that the NSTAC helped to identify a possible strategy for addressing the abuse of domestic infrastructure by foreign malicious actors, referencing the *NSTAC Report to the President on Addressing the Abuse of Domestic Infrastructure by Foreign Malicious Actors*. She also praised the NSTAC for their current efforts on the Baseline Security Offerings study and thanked the committee for their most recent work on the [*NSTAC Letter to the President on Dynamic Spectrum Sharing*](#).

Ms. Clarke then closed by thanking the NSTAC for their insights and noted that their ongoing efforts help to set the stage for how the U.S. government needs to evolve to address emerging threats as the world becomes increasingly digitized. She mentioned looking forward to the discussion and yielded the floor to Mr. Charney. Mr. Charney thanked Ms. Clarke for her opening remarks and invited Mr. Natarajan to share his remarks.

Mr. Natarajan thanked Mr. Charney and the NSTAC for welcoming him to the meeting. He also noted that he looks forward to working together to strengthen and enhance national security to protect U.S. critical communications infrastructure. He highlighted the recent release of the third edition of the Secure Tomorrow Series Toolkit and celebrated the new Secure by Demand Guide, developed by CISA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He shared that the guide complements the recently published software acquisition guide for government enterprise consumers and focuses specifically on cybersecurity in the supply chain.

Mr. Natarajan expressed his eagerness to discuss the NSTAC's next study, National Preparedness for PQC and referenced CISA's ongoing post-quantum initiative, which builds on efforts from NIST and elements of the Department of Homeland Security. He summarized that this initiative aims to support critical infrastructure and government networks during the transition to PQC and will focus on four (4) key areas: (1) risk assessment across the fifty-five sectors and subsectors of critical infrastructure; (2) planning resource allocation and engagement strategies; (3) fostering policy and standards adoption; and (4) promoting stakeholder engagement and awareness. He stated that these efforts are designed to ensure that the public and private sectors are prepared to transition to PQC.



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Mr. Natarajan urged organizations to review the joint factsheet, “Quantum-Readiness: Mitigation to Post-Quantum Cryptography,” released last August by CISA, the National Security Administration, and NIST; and noted that the document is intended to guide critical infrastructure organizations and developing a Quantum-Readiness Roadmap. He concluded by thanking the NSTAC members for their dedication to enhance NS/EP and expressing his anticipation for the day’s discussion.

Mr. Charney thanked Mr. Natarajan for his remarks. He then yielded the floor to Ms. Clarke and Ms. Noopur Davis, Comcast, to begin the discussion of the new study topic, “National Preparedness for Post-Quantum Cryptography.”

Study Topic Discussion: National Preparedness for Post-Quantum Cryptography

Ms. Clarke thanked Mr. Charney and emphasized the critical importance of PQC to the administration, highlighting the potential threat quantum computing poses to current cryptography methods. She discussed ongoing federal efforts to transition to PQC, including the recent release of the first finalized encryption standards by NIST, and urged further study on PQC to address the long-term challenge of implementing new encryption standards.

Ms. Clarke underscored the urgency of adopting post-quantum cryptography, noting that quantum computing could compromise existing encryption. She mentioned the federal government’s proactive steps with the release of the National Security Memorandum 10 (NSM-10) in 2022, and the most recent NIST standards release. Both directives calling for increased focus on PQC to ensure the secure migration to new encryption technologies over the coming years.

Ms. Clarke noted that she believes the NSTAC can assist with tackling this issue and tasked the NSTAC with Post-Quantum Cryptography as its next study topic. She then yielded the floor to Ms. Davis for more on the topic. Ms. Davis thanked Ms. Clarke and stressed the severe security threats posed by quantum computing, particularly to economic systems, and highlighted the urgency of transitioning to PQC. She emphasized the need for strong government and industry collaboration to address these risks and cited NSM-10’s directive to adopt PQC by 2025.

Ms. Davis underscored the critical importance of addressing the potential vulnerabilities introduced by quantum computing, including the risk of exposing current encrypted data. She called for coordination efforts between government and industry to transition to PQC with a focus on ensuring interoperability during the shift. The proposed advisory committee report will evaluate cross sector dependencies and policy opportunities, aiming to overcome barriers and ensure a smooth transition to PQC.

Ms. Davis then invited the group to pose any questions or comments. Hearing none, Mr. Charney thanked both Ms. Davis and Ms. Clarke for their contributions. He noted that PQC is an important and timely topic and looks forward to the NSTACs efforts in addressing Post-Quantum Cryptography through this study. He then welcomed Mr. Mandia and Ms. Martinez to provide the committee with an update on the progress of the Baseline Security Offerings Subcommittee.

Status Update: NSTAC Principles for Baseline Security Offerings from Cloud Service



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Providers Subcommittee

Mr. Mandia thanked Mr. Charney and provided an update on the subcommittee's progress, noting that the subcommittee members have begun drafting the report and have gathered insight from various briefers. He mentioned that the subcommittee aims to address the lack of shared responsibility in cloud security and emphasize the importance of roles for both customers and providers.

Mr. Mandia noted there are key themes that have emerged, such as the need for better transparency from cloud service providers and the prioritization of FedRAMP. The subcommittee plans to present a preliminary draft of the report in the near future. Mr. Charney thanked Mr. Mandia and noted that he looks forward to seeing the first draft of the report. He then opened the floor for questions to which there were none. Mr. Charney then invited Mr. Coker, Ms. Clarke, and Mr. Natarajan to provide their closing remarks starting with Mr. Coker.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Mr. Coker thanked Mr. Charney and the NSTAC members for their leadership in the "Post-Quantum Cryptography" study as well, as Mr. Mandia and Ms. Martinez for their work on the Baseline Security Offerings Subcommittee. He acknowledged the dedication of all the members and emphasized the importance of their contributions. Next, Ms. Clark reiterated her appreciation for the NSTAC members and for the ongoing and newly tasked efforts; and highlighted the significant implications of their topics on critical infrastructure. Lastly, Mr. Natarajan expressed his gratitude to Mr. Charney and NSTAC Vice Chair, Mr. Jeffrey Story, Lumen Technologies, and the NSTAC members for their time and agility in providing actionable recommendations to the U.S. government. He also recognized the commitment of the Baseline Security Offerings Subcommittee and looks forward to the future draft report.

Mr. Charney thanked: the participants for attending; NSTAC members for providing input during the discussions; government partners for their insights; Ms. Davis for leading the development of the upcoming PQC study; Mr. Mandia, for providing the Baseline Security Offerings Subcommittee update; and the subcommittee working group leads, members, and the NSTAC team for their efforts.

Mr. Charney then asked if anyone else had any final comments they would like to offer. Hearing none, he stated that the next NSTAC meeting is scheduled for November 2024 and shared that more information on the November meeting would be provided by the Federal Register closer to the date. He then made a motion to close the meeting, which was seconded, and Mr. Charney officially adjourned the meeting.



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APPENDIX

Participant List

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
NSTAC Members	
Mr. Peter Altabef	Unisys Corp.
Mr. Johnathon Caldwell	Lockheed Martin
Mr. Scott Charney	Microsoft Corp.
Mr. Mark Dankberg	Viasat
Ms. Noopur Davis	Comcast
Mr. Matthew Desch	Iridium Communications, Inc.
Mr. David DeWalt	NightDragon Management Company
Mr. John Donovan	Palo Alto Networks, Inc.
Mr. Joseph Fergus	Communication Technologies, Inc.
Ms. Lisa Hook	Two Island Partners, LLC
Mr. Jack Huffard	Tenable Holdings, Inc.
Ms. Barbara Humpton	Siemens USA
Ms. Renée James	Ampere Computing, LLC
Ms. Kimberly Kever	Cox Communications
Mr. Kyle Malady	Verizon
Mr. Kevin Mandia	Google Cloud
Ms. Maria Martinez	Cisco
Mr. Jeffery McElfresh	AT&T Communications
Mr. Bryan Palma	Trellix
Mr. Neville Ray	T-Mobile
Mr. Angel Ruiz	MediaKind, Inc. and Ericsson
Mr. Jeffrey Storey	Lumen Technologies, Inc.
Mr. Hock Tan	Broadcom, Inc.
Mr. Corey Thomas	Rapid7
NSTAC Points of Contact	
Mr. Christopher Anderson	Lumen Technologies, Inc.
Mr. Christopher Boyer	AT&T Communications
Mr. Rudy Brioché	Comcast
Mr. Jamie Brown	Tenable Network Security
Mr. Matt Carothers	Cox Communications
Mr. Bruce Cathell	Viasat
Mr. Drew Colliatie	Siemens USA
Ms. Kathryn Condello	Lumen Technologies, Inc.
Mr. William Conner	Iridium Communications, Inc.
Ms. Cheryl Davis	Oracle Corp.



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Mr. Thomas Gann
 Ms. Katherine Gronberg
 Mr. Yoav Hebron
 Mr. Robert Hoffman
 Mr. John Hunter
 Mr. Ken Kaminski
 Ms. Sabeen Malik
 Mr. Joel Max
 Mr. Sean Morgan
 Mr. Christopher Oatway
 Ms. Stacy O'Mara
 Ms. Jeanine Pihonak
 Mr. Kevin Reifsteck
 Ms. Jordana Siegel
 Ms. Jennifer Warren
 Mr. Eric Wenger
 Ms. Stephanie Woods

Trellix
 NightDragon Management Company
 Cohere Technologies, Inc.
 Broadcom, Inc.
 T-Mobile
 Ericsson
 Rapid7
 Siemens USA
 Palo Alto Networks, Inc.
 Verizon
 Mandiant
 Unisys
 Microsoft Corp.
 Amazon Web Services, Inc.
 Lockheed Martin
 Cisco
 Lumen Technologies

Government Participants

Ms. Caitlin Clarke
 Mr. Harry Coker, Jr.
 Ms. Ryan Donaghy
 Ms. Carole House
 Mr. Nitin Natarajan

National Security Council
 Office of the National Cyber Director
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
 National Security Council
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

NSTAC Support

Mr. Mohammed Alian
 Ms. Christina Berger
 Ms. DeShelle Cleghorn
 Ms. Ashley Gaston
 Ms. Elizabeth Gauthier
 Ms. Helen Jackson
 Ms. Laura Penn
 Ms. Jennifer Poole
 Ms. Cheryl Santiago
 Mr. Barry Skidmore
 Mr. William Rybczynski
 Mr. Joel Vaughn
 Mr. Scott Zigler

TekSynap Corp.
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
 Customer Value Partners
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
 Edgesource Corp.
 Edgesource Corp.
 TekSynap Corp.
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Public Participants

Ms. Cate Burgan
 Ms. Sara Friedman
 Mr. Eric Geller

MeriTalk
 Inside Cybersecurity
 Freelance Cybersecurity Journalist



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Mr. Jonathan Grieg
Ms. Whitney Gulvin
Ms. Stephanie Kiel
Mr. Thomas Leithauser

Mr. Larry Lidz
Ms. Alex Martin
Ms. Thais Price
Ms. Kate Siefert
Mr. Tim Starks
Ms. Kim Zetter

The Record
Department of Defense
Google
Telecommunications Reports/Cybersecurity Policy
Report/Wolters Kluwer
Cisco
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
CyberScoop
Freelance Journalist



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Certification

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Charney".

Mr. Scott Charney
NSTAC Chair