

Griffiss Institute and Innovare Advancement Center Announce Commitment to Global Efforts Advocating for Cybersecurity and Online Behavior Change During Cybersecurity Awareness Month

This year's initiative highlights the growing importance of cybersecurity and encouraging individuals and organizations to take necessary measures to stay safe and secure in an increasingly connected world



CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

ROME, NY — The [Griffiss Institute](http://www.griffissinstitute.org) and [Innovare Advancement Center](http://www.innovareadvancementcenter.org) together today announced their commitment to Cybersecurity Awareness Month, held annually in October, by signing up as 2021 Champions and joining a growing global effort to promote the awareness of online safety and privacy. The Cybersecurity Awareness Month Champions Program is a collaborative effort among businesses, government agencies, colleges and universities, associations, nonprofit organizations and individuals committed to the Cybersecurity Awareness Month theme of 'Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart.'

"Cyber Security is comprised of many different fields, all of which have their special niche. From classical computing to cloud environments, to the new age of Quantum. Technologies and software are constantly changing and evolving, which is great, but can leave people vulnerable," says **Chris Ward, Cyber Security Technician at Griffiss Institute**. "Cyber security should always be thought about, from strong passwords to multifactor authentication. One is only as secure as their weakest link. During the month of October, we want to highlight our weak points so that we can better protect ourselves, our companies, our families. It takes 15 years to build a reputation, but only one security incident to ruin it. Cyber security is much more than a matter of IT. If you spend more on coffee than on security, you will be hacked. Let's use October to make sure that does not happen."

More than ever before, technology plays a part in almost everything we do. Connected devices have been woven into society as an integral part of how people communicate and access services essential to their wellbeing. Despite these great advances in technology and the conveniences this

provides, recent events have shown us how quickly our lives and businesses can be disrupted when cyber criminals and adversaries use technology to do harm. Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to shed light on these security vulnerabilities, while offering actionable guidance surrounding behaviors anyone can take to protect themselves and their organizations. Everyone has a responsibility to do their part in securing our interconnected world.

This year, the Cybersecurity Awareness Month's main weekly focus areas will revolve around:

- Understanding and implementing basic cyber hygiene, including the importance of strong passphrases, using multi-factor authentication, performing software updates, and backing up data.
- Recognizing and reporting phishing attempts whether it's through email, text messages, or chat boxes.
- Empowering individuals to not only practice safe online behavior but consider joining the mission of securing our online world by considering a career in cybersecurity!
- Making cybersecurity a priority in business by making products and processes "secure by design" and considering cybersecurity when purchasing new internet-connected devices.

If everyone does their part – implementing stronger security practices, raising community awareness, educating vulnerable audiences, or training employees – our interconnected world will be safer and more resilient for everyone.

Now in its 18th year, Cybersecurity Awareness Month continues to build momentum and impact with the ultimate goal of providing everyone with the information they need to stay safer and more secure online. Both, the Griffiss Institute and Innovare Advancement Center are proud to support this far-reaching online safety awareness and education initiative which is co-led by the [National Cyber Security Alliance](#) and the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency \(CISA\) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#).

For more information about Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2021 and how to participate in a wide variety of activities, visit staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month. You can also follow and use the official hashtag **#BeCyberSmart** on social media throughout the month.

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About Griffiss Institute

The Griffiss Institute (GI) is a nonprofit talent and technology accelerator for the United States Department of Defense and an international network of academic, government and industry partners.

Since 2002, the GI has served the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (AFRL/RI), the Mohawk Valley region, and the United States, empowering diverse teams with talent and technology development programs that lead the nation in technical and economic impact. Devoted to converging teams and technologies to solve complex national challenges, the GI is proud to enable its international network from its home at Innovare Advancement Center in New York's picturesque Mohawk Valley. To learn more about Griffiss Institute, please visit www.griffissinstitute.org

About Innovare Advancement Center

Innovare Advancement Center is a 150,000 square foot open innovation hub that converges world-class scientific, engineering, and entrepreneurial talent from universities, government, and industry to tackle new challenges in artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, quantum, and unmanned aerial systems. Innovare's unique capabilities include highly specialized laboratories for experimentation in quantum communications and neuromorphic computing, 40,000 square feet of high-tech and high-speed communications-enabled collaboration spaces, an auditorium with capacity for over 250 people, a 50-mile drone corridor for advanced unmanned aircraft operations, and coming in spring 2022 – an indoor sUAS research and testing facility with 22,500 square foot indoor flight testing area - the largest in the United States. To learn more, visit innovare.org.

About Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Cybersecurity Awareness Month is designed to engage and educate public- and private-sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity to increase the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident. Since the Presidential proclamation establishing Cybersecurity Awareness Month in 2004, the initiative has been formally recognized by Congress, federal, state and local governments and leaders from industry and academia. This united effort is necessary to maintain a cyberspace that is safer and more resilient and remains a source of tremendous opportunity and growth for years to come. For more information, visit staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/.

About National Cyber Security Alliance

The National Cyber Security Alliance is a nonprofit alliance on a mission to create a more secure connected world. We enable powerful, public-private partnerships in our mission to educate and inspire individuals to protect themselves, their families and their organizations for the collective good. Our primary partners are the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and our Board of Directors, which includes representatives from ADP; AIG; Bank of America; Cofense; Discover; Eli Lilly and Company; ESET North America; Facebook; KnowBe4; La-Z-Boy; Lenovo; Marriott International; Mastercard; Microsoft; Mimecast; NortonLifeLock; Paubox; Proofpoint; Raytheon; Terranova Security; US Bank; VISA; Wells Fargo. The National Cyber Security Alliance's core efforts include Cybersecurity Awareness Month (October); Data Privacy Day (Jan. 28); Identity Management Day; and CyberSecure My Business™. For more information on the National Cyber Security Alliance, please visit staysafeonline.org.