Lesley Carhart

Cybersecurity expert and Director of Incident Response at Dragos

The Industrial Cybersecurity Landscape Critical infrastructure, such as water, electric power, oil and gas, and manufacturing are crucial to our modern society. Unfortunately, the cyber threats facing them are increasing – from state actors pre-positioning for future attacks, to ransomware gangs out for the money, to disgruntled insiders. As industrial technology (ICS) has converged with information technology and become increasingly connected, these systems are increasingly ripe for abuse. Lesley has spent a career responding to and conducting forensic investigations of intrusions into industrial computer networks, and will discuss the current threat landscape, proper preparation for cyberattacks against industrial networks, and what we must do as a society to improve the cybersecurity of our most critical systems.

Building the Cybersecurity Talent Pool The Cybersecurity industry is facing a critical shortage of skilled talent, as cyberattacks and their costs to businesses increase dramatically. Additionally, these positions are well-paying, interesting, and deeply impactful to society. Unfortunately, swathes of talent are not being reached – from underprivileged communities, to underrepresented minorities, to veterans. Lesley has been hiring, mentoring, and training cybersecurity talent for over a decade, and runs career and résumé clinics for prospective cybersecurity professionals across the United States. Learn how to select a cybersecurity niche, choose the right training, and seek a balanced and enjoyable cybersecurity career!

Building an Incident Response Program We do our best to build defenses to prevent cyberattacks in our organizations, but the reality is that any organization can be the victim of a cyberattack. It is always important to prepare for a worst case scenario, and that includes cybersecurity incidents. Lesley has spent a career responding to and investigating diverse cyberattacks, and professionally trains and tests the capabilities of incident response teams. This talk will discuss how to build a successful and healthy incident response program from a strategic, logistical, and tactical level – from constructing essential documentation, to engaging appropriate resources, and measuring and testing success.

Understanding Modern Cyberattacks: Thinking Like an Adversary Why do we have to complete cybersecurity awareness training? Why does our organization block specific websites? it’s not just to frustrate us. There’s really an important purpose! Lesley will break down the basics of modern cyberattacks – who conducts them, their typical lifecycle, and what the general objectives of adversaries are. To understand defense, we have to understand the adversaries we face in defending our homes and businesses. We will take a journey together into thinking like a cybercriminal, in order to understand why we put important cybersecurity measures in place in both our personal lives and in our work lives.