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With threats on the rise, cybersecurity conference caters to students, businesses

By FRED PACE fp@hdmediallc.com

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Marshall University senior Nerissa Napier said attending the [Secure WV](#) cybersecurity conference Friday at the [Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center](#) is part of her goal of becoming a cyber forensics analyst.

“I’m majoring in cyber forensics and security and it’s really just strikes my interest of digital evidence, especially using [artificial intelligence] to find digital evidence,” said Napier, 22, of Wayne. “I wanted to come to the conference to learn more and hear from more experienced people in the field.”

Napier was one of approximately 400 people expected to attend the two-day conference, which includes information security professionals, technology enthusiasts and business leaders, according to Matthew Perry, co-founder of Secure WV.

“This is our 15th conference and probably about 40% of those attending are college and high school students,” Perry said. “This conference is about teaching people and will feature renowned speakers from the cybersecurity industry, hands-on technical workshops and discussions on emerging threats, risk management strategies and new solutions to protect organizations from attacks.”



Matthew Perry, co-founder of Secure WV, at the start of the organization's 15th annual cybersecurity conference Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center.

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'Women in Cyber Forum' at Marshall University discusses the value of diversity

By MAGGIE SUSA msusa@hdmediallc.com  2 min to read

Marshall University's Institute for Cyber Security represented

John McFee, a cyber forensic researcher and instructor at [Marshall University](#), said the conference offers a chance to network and share information about the [Marshall University Institute for Cyber Security](#).

“So what we’ve realized about this conference is we’ve got a lot of people that are in industry, but also looking to further their degrees,” he said. “One of the great things about the cybersecurity program Marshall offers is fully online offering, and it’s something that we haven’t had in the past.”

McFee said Marshall also offers micro credentials.

“These are small, bite sized courses that are affordable for people to get continuing education credits or work towards a certificate in a certain area,” he said. “So conferences like this are a great way to show that we’re here in West Virginia, we’re affordable.”




John McFee, left, a cyber forensic researcher and instructor, and Kaylin Hayes, graduate assistant, at Marshall University's Institute for Cyber Security, attended Secure WV's cybersecurity conference Friday, Oct. 25, 2024 at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center.

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WVSU expanding cybersecurity program with help from Google

By Roger Adkins radkins@hdmediallc.com  3 min to read

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month highlighted

Perry said to highlight [National Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#), Secure WV 2024 aims to tackle the latest in information security challenges.

“With cyber threats becoming increasingly sophisticated, Secure WV provides a critical platform for networking and knowledge-sharing,” Perry said. “Cybersecurity is a national priority, and this event is a unique opportunity for professionals across the spectrum, from IT managers to security analysts, to learn from industry leaders, enhance their skillsets and collaborate on keeping our digital infrastructure safe.”



Shane McCombs, COO of the Innocent Lives Foundation, attended the Secure WV Cybersecurity Conference Friday, Oct. 25, 2024 at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center.

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Marshall officials break ground for planned Institute for Cyber Security

By KATELYN ALUISE kaluise@hdmediallc.com 📖 2 min to read

Innocent Lives Foundation in attendance


In addition to the cyber security speakers, representatives from the Innocent Lives Foundation were in attendance to help raise awareness about the exploitation of children and their mission to help law enforcement catch child predators.

“Innocent Lives Foundation has been in operation since 2017 and focuses on hunting child predators online,” said Shane McCombs, COO of the nonprofit. “We have successfully reported 551 cases to law enforcement, averaging 12 cases per month.”

Comprising about 50 members globally, [Innocent Lives Foundation](#) operates virtually and have a presence in the U.S., France and Germany.



Cybersecurity education programs see growing enrollment

By KATELYN ALUISE kaluise@hdmediallc.com  3 min to read

Conference continues Saturday

Saturday’s conference starts at 8:40 a.m. and features keynote speaker Adam Compton, a principal security consultant with Ohio-based [TrustedSec](#).

Fred Pace is the regional business reporter for HD Media. Follow him at [Facebook.com/FredPaceHD](https://www.facebook.com/FredPaceHD) and via X (formerly Twitter) @FredPaceHD.

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