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SIM Cybersecurity SIG Convenes Successful Debut Virtual Summit

October 18, 2018 -- SIM's Cybersecurity Special Interest Group (SIG) hosted its first-ever successful Virtual Summit on Thursday, September 28, featuring an assortment of high-level speakers from the public and private sector. More than 140 people registered for the event, which featured sessions in two concurrent tracks: Understanding Your Risk and Building Resilience; and Communicating and Mitigating Enterprise Security Risk.

The morning kicked off with a welcome presentation from Laszlo Gonc, program director for the SIM Cybersecurity SIG, and Caren Shiozaki, founder of the Cybersecurity SIG and vice chair of the SIM National Board of Directors.

Nicole Eagan, CEO of Darktrace, delivered the opening keynote about the future of cybersecurity, how risk is evolving, and the role of AI in combatting future risk. Following the keynote, attendees could choose between sessions in the different tracks. Sessions covered a broad range of topical cybersecurity issues from credentialing to issue fatigue in boardrooms to risk identification and much more.

Michael Daniel, president and CEO of the Cyber Threat Alliance and a former cybersecurity advisor to President Barack Obama, delivered the closing keynote address, titled, "Building Your Cyber Toolbox." In the presentation, Daniel outlined a 10-component framework for keeping an organization safe from cybersecurity threats. "I'm not going to give you a simple, one-step technological solution for your cyber toolbox," he said, adding that it "doesn't really exist" and you just can't guarantee you'll stop 100 percent of intruders all the time.

"In fact, I used to tell President Obama that if anybody showed up in his office promising to solve the cybersecurity challenge with just one piece of technology, he should throw them out!" Daniel said, noting the limits of technology for a comprehensive cybersecurity approach.

Early attendee feedback from the event is very positive. In reviews following the event, one attendee touted the accessibility of the speakers. "I can access speakers I missed at a later time, which is something that I can't do at an in person event." Other attendees noted the breadth of information and topics covered. "Strength and background of the speakers was extraordinary," one attendee commented on the feedback form.

Conference organizers were pleased with this kick-off event. "Cybersecurity is top of mind for IT leaders, and SIM is very happy to be able to provide this inaugural event," said Steve Hufford, SIM's chief executive.



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“Things change so fast in the cybersecurity world that the talking points we put together on the Monday before the event were already outdated and being modified two days later before the event started,” said Laszlo Gonc, program director for the SIM Cybersecurity SIG.

“Our hope is that through the knowledge and strength of our speakers, we were able to deliver value and insight so that attendees got usable information, guidance and tips to better equip them in their professional lives,” said Caren Shiozaki, founder of the Cybersecurity SIG.

SIM is grateful to event sponsors: Darktrace, ForeScout, NormShield, and onShore Security. The event also benefitted from support from the Information Systems Security Association. Planning for next year’s Virtual Summit is already underway.

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About the Society for Information Management (SIM)

The Society for Information Management (SIM) is the world’s premier organization for IT leaders. Since 1968, SIM has inspired the minds of the most prestigious IT leaders in the industry -- including CIOs, senior IT executives, prominent academicians, consultants, and other IT leaders. Today, SIM is comprised of almost 5,000 members who come together to share, network and give back to their communities through the collaboration of local chapters.