

Cyber Career Realities Revealed: Panel Across NICE Framework Work Role Categories

October 22, 2026



Notes and Reminders



Attendees are muted: Due to the number of attendees, all participant microphones and cameras are automatically muted.



Webinar Recording: This webinar and the engagement tools will be recorded. An archive will be available at www.nist.gov/nice/webinars.



Submitting Questions: Please enter questions and comments for presenters in the Zoom for Government Q&A. Chat is available for this event. Please be respectful and keep all comments professional and appropriate.



CE/CPE credits: The CEU form will be available on the event page after the event.



CYBERSECURITY CAREER WEEK

OCTOBER 19 – 24, 2026

#CyberCareerWeek #MyCyberJob #ChooseCyber



www.nist.gov/nice/ccw

CCW is supported by the NICE Program Office at NIST.



Cyber Career Realities Revealed: Panel Across NICE Framework Work Role Categories

October 22, 2026



NICE Cyber Careers Community of Interest

- ❖ Meets every 2nd Friday of the month from 1:00-2:00pm ET
- ❖ Open to the public
- ❖ Learn more: nist.gov/nice/community

NICE Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity (NICE Framework)

- ❖ Learn more: nist.gov/nice/framework





Donna Woods
Moreno Valley College
(Moderator)

Co-chair, NICE Cyber
Careers COI



**Dr. Cynthia
Sutherland**
BlackCrest Cyber LLC



Susan Hansche
Cybersecurity and
Infrastructure Security
Agency (CISA)



Ayyappan Rajesh
Cybastion



Ben Crenshaw
MSCIA
Former Vulnerability &
Senior Analyst
Oracle

Panel Discussion

Audience Q&A



Submit an event survey!

https://survey.nist.gov/jfe/form/SV_3OiPmR9vGr4Oxsa





CYBERSECURITY CAREER WEEK

OCTOBER 19 – 24, 2026

#CyberCareerWeek #MyCyberJob #ChooseCyber

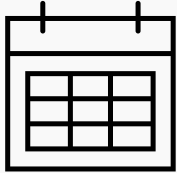


www.nist.gov/nice/ccw

CCW is supported by the NICE Program Office at NIST.



CCW Events & Activities



Participate in the Open One Door Project

October 19-24, 2026 (All Week)

The project encourages cybersecurity professionals, educators, and employers to take single, high-impact actions -- such as mentoring, introductions, or offering hands-on experiences -- that help candidates actively advance along a cybersecurity career pathway.

Challenge: Six Day #mycyberjob Media Challenge

October 19-24, 2026 (All Week)

X, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and other
Tag: @NISTCyber

Season VI US Cyber Team Draft Day

October 22, 2026 | 3:00 - 6:00 PM ET

The Season VI US Cyber Team Draft Day Event will reveal the top cybersecurity athletes to represent the U.S. in 2027.

nist.gov/nice/ccw

CCW is supported by the NICE Program Office at NIST.

NICE Webinar Series

NICE Webinar:

Breaking into Cyber: Gateway Roles and the Skills that Matter

December 2, 2026, 2:00-3:00PM ET





Cybersecurity
Career Week

Speaker Biography



Dr. Cynthia Sutherland

Dr. Cynthia Sutherland is a global cybersecurity executive, educator, and founder of BlackCrest Cyber, operating at the intersection of security architecture, organizational transformation, and executive decision-making.

A former Chief Information Security Officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and FEMA, she has led the design, integration, stabilization, and transformation of mission-critical cybersecurity environments. For the last 30 years, she's secured systems across 16 industries, a \$1T portfolio, and advanced secure interoperability across 23 partner nations and NATO.

A mental health advocate in technology, Dr. Sutherland connects engineering leadership, workforce development, and human-centered organizational design. Her work examines AI integration, measurable performance outcomes, and the human factors shaping secure system development.

She champions mission-driven engineering that translates operational requirements into resilient architectures, balances security with innovation, and equips cybersecurity professionals with the technical competencies, adaptability, and systems thinking needed to succeed in an evolving digital landscape.



Susan Hansche

Ms. Susan Hansche is a training manager at DHS CISA and has 20+ years of experience developing role-based training for federal agencies.

Speaker Biography



Ben Crenshaw

Ben Crenshaw he creates hands-on cybersecurity courses for educators and students nationwide. His background combines eight years as an enterprise Senior Vulnerability Analyst at Oracle with secondary classroom experience that earned him multiple Teacher of the Year awards. Holding more than 20 industry certifications, Ben volunteers as a Senior Coach for TraceLabs and a Senior Mentor for the U.S. Cyber Team. He was recently invited to the White House as a distinguished judge for the National AI Challenge and has published two books: Teaching Cyber: Building the Bridge Between Education and Industry and They Hack Minds: Mastering the Art of Digital Self-Defense.



Ayyappan Rajesh

Ayyappan Rajesh is a Senior Security Engineer at Cybastion and a graduate NYU Cyber Fellow at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering. With a deep background in offensive security and penetration testing, he now operates across the purple-team spectrum, applying an attacker's mindset to defensive operations, detection engineering, and critical infrastructure protection for enterprise and government environments.