

\$4 BILLION TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

The annual economic impact of San Diego's cybersecurity industry is greater than hosting 24 Comic-Cons!

13,383

Direct Jobs
8% increase*

26,000

Total Jobs Impacted
10% increase*

8%




Projected Cyber
Employment Growth
in the next 12 months

50,000

Cybersecurity-Related Talent
Call San Diego Home

Cyber Center of Excellence

Founded by a collection of world-class cyber companies with operations in San Diego, Cyber Center of Excellence (CCOE) is a nonprofit that mobilizes businesses, academia and government to grow the regional cyber economy and create a more secure digital community for all. By capitalizing on San Diego's unique strengths, CCOE's programs and initiatives aim to:

-  Increase regional cyber resiliency
-  Seed & diversify the talent pipeline
-  Drive collaborative cyber innovation

CONTACTS

CORPORATE

Lisa Easterly
President & CEO
Cyber Center of Excellence
858.245.6674
lisa.easterly@sdccoe.org

MEDIA

Kevin Dinino
KCD PR
619.739.4265
kevin@kcdpr.com

FOLLOW CCOE



@sdccoe.org

SAN DIEGO'S CYBER ECONOMY

The San Diego region is ideally positioned to capitalize on the ever-growing global demand for cybersecurity products and services.

A VIBRANT INNOVATION ECONOMY

San Diego's entrepreneurial environment includes incubators, financiers, experienced service providers and nonprofits that support more than 1,000 firms focused on cybersecurity.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

San Diego's universities and colleges annually graduate 3,672 students across 45 programs in the cybersecurity, computer science and engineering fields. These institutions also support cutting-edge research through resources like the Super Computing Center at UC San Diego. San Diego's universities annually receive billions in philanthropic and federal funding for research and development projects.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PRESENCE

San Diego is home to the U.S. Navy's Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR), employing the largest number of cybersecurity jobs (>3,432) and significantly contributing to R&D in the region.



LISA EASTERLY

President & CEO, Cyber Center of Excellence

lisa.easterly@sdccoe.org



PAST EXPERIENCE

- VP of Marketing, San Diego Regional EDC
- Founding Board, CleanTech San Diego
- Business Development Manager, Latham & Watkins LLP

EDUCATION

- BS in Business Administration, Finance and Economics, University of Florida
- MBA, University of Florida

BIOGRAPHY

Lisa Easterly is the President & CEO of Cyber Center of Excellence (CCOE), a San Diego-based nonprofit dedicated to growing the regional cyber economy and creating a more secure digital community for all. She leads the organization's mission, business strategy, organizational development, program implementation, funding and financial oversight. Prior to promotion to President & CEO, Easterly served as Chief Operating Officer managing operations, programs, marketing, membership and fundraising to stand-up and support the organization's growth.

Prior to joining CCOE, Easterly was the Vice President of Marketing for San Diego Regional EDC, a nonprofit organization driving the attraction, retention and expansion of the innovation, military, tourism and local economies in the San Diego region. She led communications, branding, marketing and business development strategy.

Easterly also served as a Founding Board Member and Education & Outreach Committee Chair for CleanTech San Diego, a nonprofit organization with the mission to stimulate innovation and advance the adoption of clean technologies and sustainable industry practices for the economic, environmental and social benefit of the greater San Diego region.

Easterly also served as Business Development Manager for Latham & Watkins LLP. She built the local business development department to drive client retention and growth through competitive intelligence, strategic partnerships, cross-selling, media relations and targeted proposals and events.

Easterly earned a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Finance and Economics from the University of Florida.

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ANDY HAASS

Principal, Booz Allen Hamilton
Co-Chairman of the Board, Cyber Center of Excellence

haass_john@bah.com



CURRENT EXPERIENCE

- Principal, Booz Allen Hamilton
- Co-Chairman of the Board, Cyber Center of Excellence

PAST EXPERIENCE

- Chief Engineer, Booz Allen Hamilton
- Systems & Cybersecurity Engineer, Booz Allen Hamilton
- Real Time Software Engineer, The Boeing Company

EDUCATION

- BS in Physics and Computer Science, Washington and Lee University
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), ISC2
- Certified Systems Engineering Professional, INCOSE

BIOGRAPHY

As a Principal at Booz Allen Hamilton, Andy Haass directs the company's cybersecurity and engineering capabilities provided to the Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific (NIWC Pacific) and leads a cross-functional team of cybersecurity engineers, analysts, and testers supporting programs across NAVWAR and NIWC Pacific. Andy has a proven track record of innovation and people development in the cybersecurity and engineering disciplines, and has developed and implemented new approaches to cybersecurity engineering and analysis that have catalyzed change processes and techniques used by his clients while initiating change in legacy perceptions and attitudes towards cybersecurity. Andy has guided and helped his clients establish new cybersecurity testing and engineering capabilities, and establish organizations to help manage, grow, and promulgate those capabilities across the Navy.

Andy has served on the Board of Directors of Cyber Center of Excellence (CCOE) since 2017 and currently serves as Co-Chairman of the Board. In this role, he has engaged with regional academia, government, and businesses to grow the regional cyber economy and create a more security digital community. Andy has collaborated with other local nonprofit organizations and academic institutions from elementary school through university levels to seed and diversify the cyber talent pipeline.

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KRIS VIRTUE

Vice President of Cybersecurity, Qualcomm
Co-Chairman of the Board, Cyber Center of Excellence

kvirtue@qualcomm.com



PAST EXPERIENCE

- 18+ years at Qualcomm
- Leadership role, information security
- Leadership role, middleware
- Leadership role, data integration

EDUCATION

- BS in Computer Science, University of California, San Diego
- MA in Architecture Based Enterprise Systems Engineering, University of California, San Diego
- CISSP Certified
- CISM Certified

BIOGRAPHY

Kris Virtue is Head of Global Information Security and Risk Management at Qualcomm, where he oversees the organization's Cyber Security and Threat Management team. In this role, he has responsibility for incident response, threat intelligence, security monitoring and application security.

Virtue also manages the Qualcomm IT eDiscovery collections team which partners with Qualcomm's litigation department to manage legal hold data collection and preservation. In addition to his security related duties, Virtue is also responsible for the IT organization supporting Qualcomm's Government Technologies business unit, providing IT service delivery across the stack.

Over his nearly 18 year tenure with Qualcomm, he has held numerous roles within IT, including leadership roles across all aspects of the information security program, middleware and data integration teams. He has extensive experience in security architecture, incident response, compliance, security operations, identity management and security technology.

Virtue also currently serves on the Board of Directors of Cyber Center of Excellence (CCOE), a San Diego-based nonprofit dedicated to accelerating the regional economy by promoting alignment and collaboration within the Cyber community.

Virtue holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and a Master's degree in Architecture Based Enterprise Systems Engineering from the University of California, San Diego, and is CISSP and CISM certified.

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ERIC BASU

Founder and CEO, Haiku, Inc
Founding Board of Directors, Cyber Center of Excellence

ebasu@haikurange.com



ADDITIONAL CURRENT ROLES

- Board of Directors, Saved in America (anti-human trafficking)
- Board of Directors, Las Vegas Metro Police Foundation

PAST EXPERIENCE

- Chief Architect, Alitum
- Consultant, Price Waterhouse Coopers
- Project Manager/IT Consultant, KPMG

EDUCATION

- BS in Molecular Biology, San Jose State University
- MBA, Anderson Graduate School of Management (UCLA)

BIOGRAPHY

Eric Basu is a serial entrepreneur and veteran who has founded several companies. He currently serves as the CEO of Haiku Inc, a developer of gamified cybersecurity training solutions. He also serves as a Venture Partner with the Veteran Fund, a venture capital fund which focuses its investments into veteran and veteran-spouse owned companies. He's a former U.S. Navy SEAL Commander who graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology and holds an MBA from Anderson Graduate School of Management (UCLA). He has completed both the Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School Negotiations courses.

Basu is a successful serial entrepreneur who has worked in various industries and started a number of successful companies over his nearly four decades of professional life. After leaving active duty, Basu worked in various consulting roles before starting Sentek Global, a cybersecurity defense contractor which he grew to be the largest small business in San Diego. Basu launched Sentek Global out of his home in 2001 with the goal of founding a firm committed to making a significant and long-standing positive difference for his clients. His leadership led to a successful sale of Sentek to Deloitte in July of 2021. After the sale of Sentek, Basu founded Haiku Inc, a company which makes gamified cybersecurity training solutions. The launch of their first product, the World of Haiku, a video game which teaches basic cybersecurity skills, received critical acclaim from the cybersecurity community. The Haiku product suite expands the opportunity to learn cybersecurity skills to a vastly wider demographic than current training methods by disrupting the price point of cybersecurity training and using a role playing game format.

Basu and his team developed the Haiku product suite over several years and have implemented it with Cyber Center of Excellence, San Diego State University, the U.S. Navy, many scholastic Cyber Cup Hacking competitions, and a large audience of individual players. He was a finalist for Entrepreneur Magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2012 and 2014, and San Diego Business Journal's Most Admired CEO in 2015.

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JIM SKEEN JR.

Founder, Lockton San Diego
Founding Board of Directors and Secretary,
Cyber Center of Excellence

JSKeen@lockton.com



ADDITIONAL CURRENT ROLES

- Board of Directors, Haiku, Inc
- Board of Directors, Navy SEAL Museum San Diego
- Private Sector Engagement Partner to FBI Cyber
- Member, DHS Maritime Security Committee
- Member, San Diego CISO Roundtable

PAST EXPERIENCE

- President & CEO, Lockton San Diego
- Member, Executive Committee, Lockton Pacific Series
- Senior Vice President, Marsh Inc.
- VP, Johnson & Higgins

BIOGRAPHY

Jim is the Founder of Lockton San Diego. He long served as a member of the Lockton Pacific Series Executive Committee, accountable for its sustained growth and profitability through its west coast offices. He has provided decades of continuous board service, for both corporate and nonprofit organizations, focused on enterprise opportunity and results.

He has over 40 years of experience successfully navigating complex Risk and Resiliency solutions in verticals such as AML, Basic Research, Communications, Construction, Cybersecurity, Defense, Healthcare, Hospitality, Life Sciences, M&A, Real Estate, Retail, Technology and Workforce Solutions. He is a problem solver who built a successful practice leading SME advocate teams delivering results and service through evolutionary cycles.

Jim dedicates significant time and expertise to Cyber risk awareness, education, collaboration and talent development between corporate, government and academic partners.

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SCOTT ZOLDI

Chief Analytics Officer, FICO

Founding Board of Directors, Cyber Center of Excellence

scottzoldi@fico.com



ADDITIONAL CURRENT ROLES

- Executive Council Member, CNBC Technology Executive Council
- Board Member, California Technology Council
- Board Member, Tech San Diego
- Technical Committee Member, CommNexus/EvoNexus

PAST EXPERIENCE

- Board Member, FinRegLab
- Board Member, San Diego Software Industry Council
- Board Member, SDSIC
- Analytic Science Director, HNC Software
- Director's Postdoctoral Fellow, Los Alamos National Laboratory

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Theoretical and Computational Physics, Duke University

BIOGRAPHY

Scott Zoldi is Chief Analytics Officer at FICO, driving the company's innovations in artificial intelligence and machine learning and incorporating them into the FICO Platform which enables intelligent automated decisioning in areas such as fraud, credit risk, marketing, security, and many others. While at FICO, Zoldi has been responsible for authoring more than 120 analytic patents with 76 patents granted and 47 in process.

He is an industry leader in developing practical applications and standards for AI, Explainable AI, Ethical AI and Responsible AI, and was named one of Corinium's 2020 Global Top 100 Innovators in Data & Analytics. Zoldi is most recently focused on operationalizing artificial intelligence in FICO's solutions for fraud management, compliance and cybersecurity. Zoldi serves on the Boards of Directors of Tech San Diego and Cyber Center of Excellence, and on the Cybersecurity Advisory of the California Technology Council.

Zoldi earned a Doctorate degree in theoretical physics from Duke University.

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CCOE | 451 A Street, Suite 500, San Diego, CA 92101 | sdccoe.org

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