UNT | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Sociology

NETWORK FOR EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF HUMANS & CYBERCRIME

NEXUS

Program for the Network for Exploring the Instersection of Humans & Cybercrime Conference

April 2, 2026

Gateway Center
University of North Texas
Denton, TX

CISOXC

Conference Program

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EVENT SCHEDULE

APRIL 2 | 8 am - 4:30 pm

Front Desk	**8 - 8:45 AM**	Guest Arrival & Check-In
Ballroom 35	**8:45 - 9 AM**	Welcome Announcement
Ballroom 35	**9 - 9:45 AM**	**Opening Keynote:** Dave Venable *Information Security Is National Security*
Rooms Vary	**10 - 11:15 AM**	**Breakout Session A**
Ballroom 34	**11:30 - 1 PM**	Lunch
Ballroom 35	**12 - 12:45 PM**	**Lunch Keynote:** Mohit Tiwari & Anand Singh *Security at the Top: A CEO & CISO in Dialogue*
Rooms Vary	**1:15 - 2:30 PM**	**Breakout Session B**
Ballroom 35	**2:45 - 3:30 PM**	**Closing Keynote:** Mohammed Aledhari & Shawn Tuma *Key Risks & Ethical Considerations of AI*
Ballroom 34	**3:45 - 4:30 PM**	**Poster Session**
41	**4 - 5 PM**	Industry Happy Hour (Faculty & Industry only) *No students may be served alcohol at this event

Keynote Speaker Highlight
9:00 AM - 9:45 AM
Room 35

Information Security IS International Security

Dave Venable

Chairman and President,
Institute for Strategic Risk & Security

Dr. Dave Venable operates at the intersection of cybersecurity, geopolitical competition, and democratic resilience, with a career spanning national intelligence, Fortune 100 security leadership, international diplomacy, and institutional governance, all centered on how modern institutions can withstand technological disruption without sacrificing legitimacy, stability, or sovereignty. As Chairman and President of the Institute for Strategic Risk and Security (ISRS), he develops practical frameworks to help governments, businesses, and civil society navigate cyber conflict, AI acceleration, and emerging technological asymmetries, with a focus on strengthening institutional resilience while preserving rule of law and public trust. A former U.S. intelligence officer who directed national-level cyber operations and later a Fortune 100 Chief Information Security Officer, he has also represented U.S. security interests internationally, advised executive leadership on risk and security strategy, and taught cybersecurity and cryptography at Southern Methodist University and the National Cryptologic School, while contributing to global discussions on cyber sovereignty, AI risk, and digital governance; his current work emphasizes building durable democratic systems in an era of synthetic asymmetry.

Keynote Speaker Highlight
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM
Room 35

Security at the Top: A CEO and CISO in Dialogue

Anand Singh, PhD

Global CISO, Symmetry Systems

Anand Singh is a Global Chief Information Security Officer with over 25 years of experience leading enterprise cyber risk and building security, cloud, identity, and risk programs for large-scale public and private organizations. Recognized as a Top 50 Global CISO in 2024, he has delivered measurable impact across his career, including leading IPO readiness for Alkami Technology's 2021 public offering, scaling teams to over 600, managing nine-figure budgets, and securing platforms serving more than 25 million users with zero material security incidents. He has directed multi-region security and cloud strategies in highly regulated environments, enabling business growth through pragmatic, board-level cybersecurity leadership. Singh also leads in AI security and governance, driving enterprise adoption while protecting sensitive data at scale. His work focuses on securing modern platforms across on-prem, cloud, and SaaS environments while positioning cybersecurity as a strategic business enabler.

Mohit Tiwari, PhD

CEO, Symmetry Systems/Associate Professor, UT Austin

Mohit Tiwari is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin, holding the Raytheon Company Faculty Fellowship, and the Co-Founder and CEO of Symmetry Systems, Inc., a company providing visibility into data stores and objects—a practice Gartner calls data security posture management (DSPM). Symmetry Systems was honored as the 2026 SC Award winner for Best Data Security Solution. His research spans building secure systems from hardware to applications. He and his team designed the first secure processor that obfuscates all digital signal outputs, including memory addresses, serving as a root of trust in datacenters even against insiders with physical access. They are also developing platforms that let users control privacy across mobile and server environments, including an OS-level access control system for Android and Linux. Prof. Tiwari earned his PhD from UC Santa Barbara in 2011 and was a postdoctoral fellow at UC Berkeley before joining UT.

Keynote Speaker Highlight
2:45 PM - 3:30 PM
Room 35

Key Risks & Ethical Consideration of AI

Mohammed Aledhari, PhD

Assistant Professor, UNT

Mohammed Aledhari is an Assistant Professor of Data Science at the College of Information at the University of North Texas. He earned his PhD in Computer Science with a specialization in AI/ML from Western Michigan University in 2017, completing a dissertation on a deep learning-based data minimization algorithm for big genomics data to support IoT and secure smart health services. He teaches courses on Generative AI, Large Language Models, and Machine Learning. He is the principal investigator on two funded collaborative projects with UNT Health Fort Worth, 2025–2026. Recent highlights of his research include contributions to AI and IoT applications such as DeepRet for glaucoma diagnosis, hybrid meta-learning for DDoS detection, secure digital twins for IIoT, predictive modeling for oil prices using social media, multimodal machine learning for pedestrian detection, and federated learning frameworks for autonomous vehicles and healthcare IoT. His work spans top conferences and journals, emphasizing AI/ML, blockchain security, biomedical IoT, and data-driven decision-making.

Shawn Tuma, JD

Partner, Spencer Fane LLP

Shawn Tuma is an experienced attorney who helps businesses safeguard their data and manage the risks associated with it, representing clients ranging from small companies to Fortune 100 organizations across the U.S. and globally. Since 1999, he has built a strong reputation in cybersecurity, data privacy, and emerging artificial intelligence law, holding certifications as an Artificial Intelligence Governance Professional (AIGP) and Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US). Shawn advises companies on AI strategy, governance, and risk management; develops cybersecurity risk management programs; leads cyber incident response efforts including regulatory investigations; and represents clients in litigation involving data breaches, hacking, and AI-related disputes. In addition to his legal practice, he contributes as an author, instructor, and media analyst, and is frequently engaged by other attorneys for his specialized expertise.

Breakout Session A
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Room 42
Inequality, Society, & Cyber Risk
How social and economic factors shape exposure to cybercrime and harm.

Session Chair & Discussant: Monisha Alam

Unequal Risk: Socioeconomic Inequality and Identity Theft Victimization in the US
Monisha Alam, University of North Texas

AI's Social Contract: Public Safety, Real Risks, and the Inequality Gap We Can't Ignore
Govindaraj Palanisamy, Global Payments, Inc.

Digital Social Behavior, Mental Health, and Normative Transformation in Kaduna State, Nigeria
Aimee Chris, Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology Zaria & Yusuf Hauwa'u E

What I've Learned
Travis Farral, Archaea Energy

Breakout Session A
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Room 48
Synthetic Media, Deepfakes, & Synthetic Identity
Detecting and understanding synthetic media and identity manipulation risks.

Session Chair & Discussant: Laurie Giddens, PhD

More Than a Technical Problem: Toward an Interdisciplinary Understanding of NCII Deepfakes
Laurie Giddens, PhD, University of North Texas

Deepfakes in Cybersecurity Education: A Hands-On Approach to Creation and Detection
Steve Lyford, PhD, Houston Christian University & Justin Joshuva, PhD, Houston Christian University

DOOMGAN: High-Fidelity Dynamic Identity Obfuscation Ocular Generative Morphing
Bharath Krishnamurthy, University of North Texas

AutoGov: Quantifying the Governance Tax – Cost, Latency, and Effectiveness of Automated Controls for Enterprise LLM Applications
Robert Fajardo, University of North Texas

Breakout Session A
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Room 51
Finance, Fraud, & Cybercrime
Exploring financial systems, againg populations, and organized cybercrime threats.

Session Chair & Discussant: Momna Rani

Financialization, Aging, and Cyber Victimization in the US
Momna Rani, University of North Texas

Signaling Fairness in AI-Driven Pricing: How Reputation and Transparency Shape Consumer Trust
Sakshi Goel, University of Dallas

Organized Crime and Its Role in the Cybersecurity Threat Landscape
Jennifer Grinstead, George Washington University

Cybersecurity Spending as a Social System: An Operator's Perspective on Risk, Power, and Human Behavior
Jason Rice, OpenGate AI

Breakout Session A
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Room 52
Paradoxical AI: Risk and Prevention in Cybersecurity
AI as a tool or threat in autonomous cyberattacks.

Session Chair & Discussant: Paulette Evans

AI can be cyberbullying perpetrators: Investigating individuals' perceptions and attitudes towards AI-generated cyberbullying
Fangzhou Wang, PhD, University of Texas at Arlington

How AI in shift-left of SSDLC is approached
Anitha Dakamarri, Donnelley Financial Solutions

The Hacker's Mind in the Age of AI
Zandt Lavish

Breakout Session A
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Room 43
Boardroom Discussion Roundtable

Broardroom Discussion Chair: Jay Taylor, Visa (former)

Topic: Views on Cybersecurity Prevention Techniques

Participants:

Claude Bird, BITSTC/City of Arlington

Joseph Farah

Aaron Lafferty

Lance Tamara, Northern Group USA

Candice Teague, OakTruss Group

Breakout Session B
1:15 PM - 2:30 PM
Room 42
Human-Centered Cybersecurity
Examining human behavior, decisions, and organizational practices in cybersecurity.

Session Chair & Discussant: Steve London

Identity Security: A Cybersecurity Issue for Sociology and Psychology
Steve London, Newrez

The Weakest Link Was Never the Password: Understanding the Human Systems Behind Identity Security
Gigi Sherer, IDMWORKS

Stop blaming my users: illumination of the technocentric mythos bias
Ervin Frenzel, PhD, Blue Sage Cyber & Richard Lightcap, PhD, Collin College

Five Questions Your Security Program Can't Answer: A Practitioner's Framework for Human-Centered Security Assessment
Olutobi Oyinlade, PhD, Crownstone Strategy Group

Breakout Session B
1:15 PM - 2:30 PM
Room 48
Cybersecurity Strategy & Leadership
Innovative approaches to governance, risk management, and proactive defense.

Session Chair & Discussant: Amy Chaney

The Modernization Paradox: Why Security Leaders Must Transform Faster Than the Threats They Face
Amy Chaney, Citi

Compliance Doesn't Stop Attackers. Evidence Does.
Cecile Mengue, CyberCile

Evolution of Exposure Management
Mihir Mistry, Kudelski Security

Builders, Accelerators, and the Next Generation: Rethinking Cybersecurity Prevention
Arnav Singh, Reedy

Breakout Session B
1:15 PM - 2:30 PM
Room 51
Responsible AI
Ethical and governance challenges in AI adoption and societal impact.

Session Chair & Discussant: Prapti Anandita

The Recent Developments of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Ethical and Social Issues
Moawia Eldow, PhD, University of North Texas

Human Behavior in AI Adoption: Closing the Governance Gap
Jonalea Gaalema

Building Human-Centered AI Governance: Why Cross-Functional Collaboration is the Missing Control
Sarah Triplett, Secure Start Partners

Dancing Between the Rain Drops: Skills to Survive the Autonomous Attack Storm
Chris Cochran, SANS Institute

Breakout Session B
1:15 PM - 2:30 PM
Room 52
Code, Culture, & Digital Communities
How developer behavior and online communities influence cyber risks.

Session Chair & Discussant: Maliha Mahbub

Digital Environmental Activism: The Influence of Social Media Hashtags in Mobilizing Climate Action
Maliha Mahbub, University of North Texas

Autistic Cyber Security
Christopher Marks, Scout Motors

When Privacy Feels Weak, Patients Opt Out: A Comparative Approach of Healthcare Privacy in the United States and El Salvador
Maria Bonilla Gutierrez, University of Dallas & Dr. Renita Murimi, University of Dallas

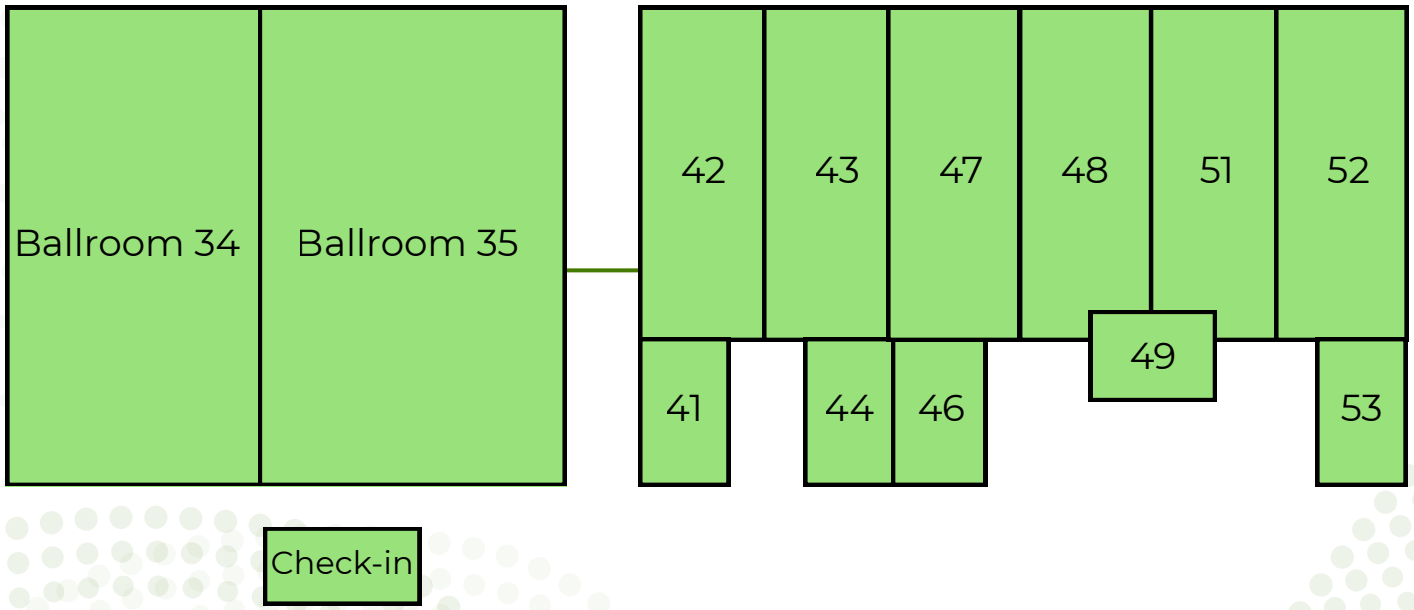
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die: Thiurd-Party AI Risk Through the Lens of Sociology, Cinema, and Survival
John Russell, Amazon Health Services

EVENT MAP

University of North Texas

Gateway Center
801 N Texas Blvd,
Denton, TX 76201

Ground Floor
Event Space



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Boyle, Wesley
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Jaime-Poovey, Kai
Johnke, Faith
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Keshwani, Shifa
Kona, Sree
Kreuger, Emily
Kusterbeck, Colby
Leeck, Igor
Loddeke, Abigail
Machado, Emily
Madriz, Derek
Marroquin, Lessly
Marsh, Krilon
McCowan, Noah
McFarlane, River
McWhorter, Ambralee
Medearis, Cade
Miller, Zane
Moreland, Eliana
Mucino, Chris
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Oldham, Katie
Olutunfese, Temi
Ortez, Alejandro
Owiti, Whitney
Padilla, Jezybel
Perez, Jaylin
Pettit, Josephine
Pham, Simon
Pritchard, Ori
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Robertson, John
Rodriguez, Jose A
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Romero, Chelsea
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Sharma Bhatta, Suvrat
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