

CEN Statement on Network Security
2019-08-04

Recent news reports of increased cyber-attack activity within Connecticut have raised concerns amongst the member community around ransomware, data breaches, and loss of personally identifiable information. Also, an awareness campaign from the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) and Cyber Crimes Investigation Unit (CCIU) on reporting has sparked some questions about process and roles. Please be aware of the following concerning CEN's current role.

CEN:

- Reports activities to authorities as requested by CEN members. These authorities include but are not limited to the FBI, Homeland Security, REN-ISAC, MS-ISAC, CTIC, and CCIU.
- Provides Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Mitigation to all members at no additional charge. Reports are sent to designated member IT contacts who are strongly encouraged to report to CTIC and/or CCIU.
- Will work with CTIC to automate reporting from CEN based DDoS mitigation center. This may result in CTIC following up with individual CEN members about the impact of such events.
- Provides CIPA compliant web filtering to all E-Rate eligible members at no charge. Rules and reports are available to designated IT leads in a distributed/delegated manner for ease of access and control.
- Provides a Next-Generation Managed Firewall Service for front line defense against cyber-attacks as an add-on to our Internet Access service.
- Continues to work with the member community to enhance cybersecurity awareness/education and to help develop/refine individual Incident Response Plans through workshops and at the annual member conference.
- Pursues a managed security services provider (MSSP) program to be developed in conjunction with our member-led advisory councils and tailored for our community's needs.
- Does not share member information without proper documentation requesting it and as required by law.

As a reminder the two agencies to report cybercrimes within Connecticut are:

- Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) Email: ctic@ct.gov Phone:(860) 706-5500
- Cyber Crimes Investigation Unit (CCIU) Email: cybercrime@ct.gov Phone:(860) 685-8450

We hope this brings clarity to CEN's role, current capabilities, and plans to help address the recent concerns around security reporting and response within the state. Cybersecurity issues are multifaceted and range from policy to practice, and they include social, technical, legal, and economic impacts. CEN cannot address all these issues. However, as their trusted Internet provider, we will do what we can to assist our members in pursuing practical solutions and reducing risk.

About CEN: The Connecticut Education Network (CEN) is the Research and Education (R&E) network serving as the primary source of Internet and value-added network services to over 500 Connecticut member organizations including universities, colleges, public and private K-12 schools, state and local governments, libraries, healthcare providers, and open access members.

If there are any questions, comments, or concerns on the above, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kocsondy
Director, CEN Advanced Services Center