Cyber Outreach Program

Chuck Bondurant
Director, Critical Infrastructure Security and Risk Management

Public Utility Commission of Texas

September 10, 2024

Antitrust Admonition

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Notice of this meeting was posted on the Texas RE website and this meeting is being held in public. Participants should keep in mind that the listening audience may include members of the press, representatives from various governmental authorities, and industry stakeholders.

Cyber Outreach Program

Upcoming Texas RE Events

September 18, 2024

Quarterly MRC and Board Meetings

September 19, 2024

Supply Chain Series: Renewables

October 2, 2024

Winter Weatherization Workshop

Cyber Outreach Program

Upcoming ERO Enterprise Events

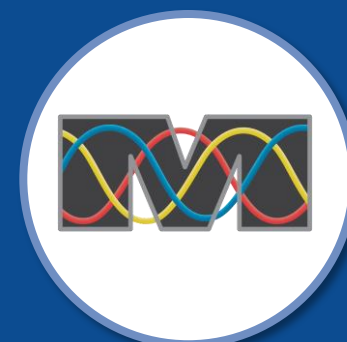**September 16, 2024**

Fall Reliability & Security Summit

October 8-9, 2024

Fall Reliability & Security Seminar

October 22-25, 2024
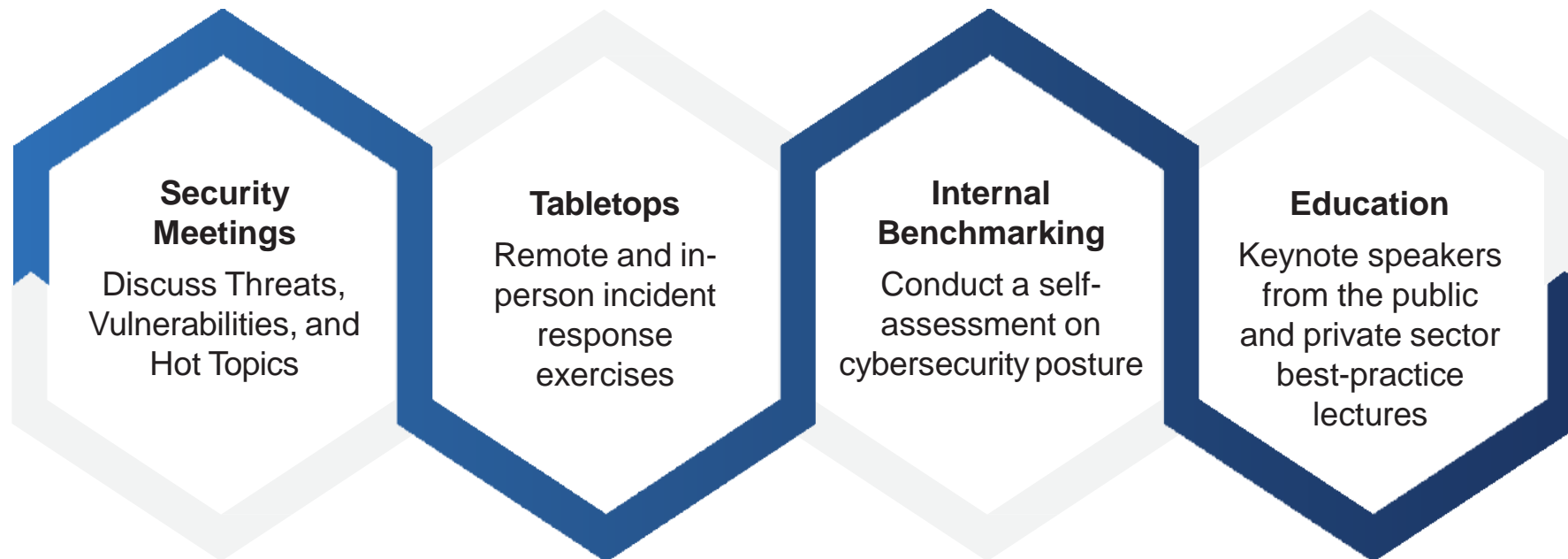
GridSecCon

Cyber Outreach Program

Slido.com

Cyber Outreach Program

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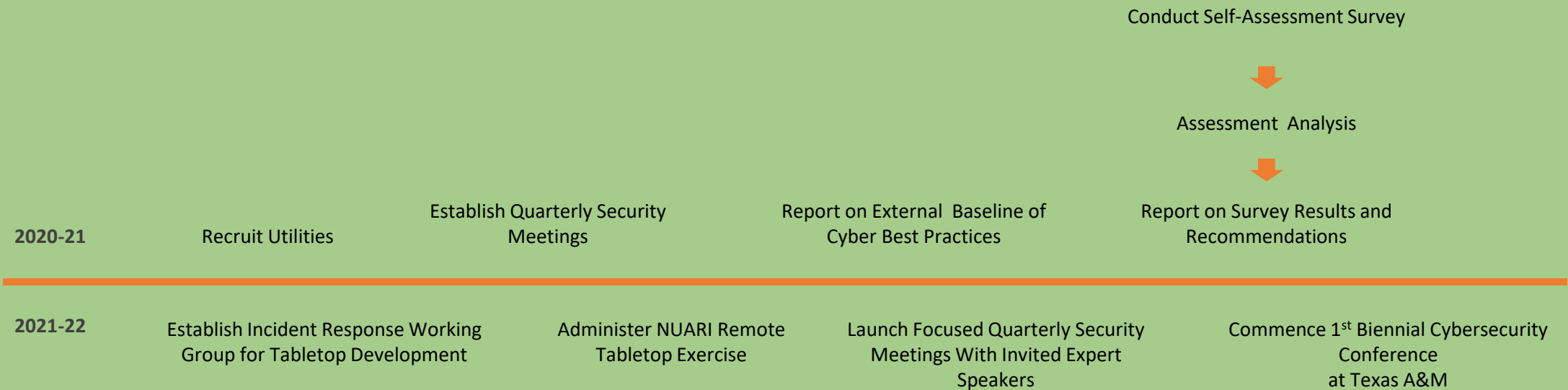**Public Utility Commission of Texas**

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Paragon Systems was selected as an independent agency by the PUC to serve as the state's Cybersecurity Monitor. The purpose of the Cybersecurity Monitor is to develop a voluntary Outreach Program to promote collaborative discussion on cyber and physical security between the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), and participant Monitored Utilities (MUs) by which Monitored Utilities can express awareness and preparedness through their governance, practices, and training.

Security Meetings

Discuss Threats, Vulnerabilities, and Hot Topics

Tabletops

Remote and in-person incident response exercises

Internal Benchmarking

Conduct a self-assessment on cybersecurity posture

Education

Keynote speakers from the public and private sector best-practice lectures

PROGRAM TIMELINE: 2020 - 2022

Conduct Self-Assessment Survey

Assessment Analysis

2020-21	Recruit Utilities	Establish Quarterly Security Meetings	Report on External Baseline of Cyber Best Practices	Report on Survey Results and Recommendations

2021-22	Establish Incident Response Working Group for Tabletop Development	Administer NUARI Remote Tabletop Exercise	Launch Focused Quarterly Security Meetings With Invited Expert Speakers	Commence 1st Biennial Cybersecurity Conference at Texas A&M

PROGRAM TIMELINE: 2023 - 2024

Conduct Self-Assessment Survey

Assessment Analysis

2022-23

Recruit Utilities

Establish Quarterly Security Meetings

Report on External Baseline of Cyber Best Practices

Report on Survey Results and Recommendations

2023-24

Report on Survey Results and Recommendations

Report on Personnel Resources Survey

Launch Ongoing Utility Recruitment Drive

Amplify QSM Effectiveness Through Targeted Expert Speakers and Peer-to-Peer Discussions

Assessment Analysis

Assessment Analysis

Conduct Focused Self-Assessment

Conduct Personnel Resources Survey

PROGRAM TRACTION

Cybersecurity Outreach Program Membership

KEY METRICS					
End of	Investor-Owned	Municipalities	Cooperatives	River Authorities	TOTAL
2020	12	15	27	1	55
2021	11	18	27	1	57
2022	11	19	27	1	58
2023	11	20	30	1	62

This is the current utility Program count as of July 2024

SECURITY MEETINGS

PURPOSE

To foster greater communication between utilities regarding cybersecurity threats, trends, and best practices

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Observational feedback and Survey Assessment results largely drive the selection of topics, invited expert speakers, and peer-to-peer discussions

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provides a formidable communications channel directly to the utilities.

EXAMPLES:
Nov 23 ERCOT Cyberstrike Training Call to Action

MAR 24 E-ISAC GRIDEX VII Feedback and Response to Calls for Strengthening Accessibility

PROGRAM TRIAL

Non-Participant Utilities are invited to participate and see for themselves the networking and educational value of the Outreach Program

SECURITY MEETINGS

Sample Topics

Invited Expert Topics

Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS)

Cybersecurity Insurance

Cyber Threat Intelligence

Peer-to-Peer

Artificial Intelligence

Technical Solution to Email Phishing

BCSI in the Cloud
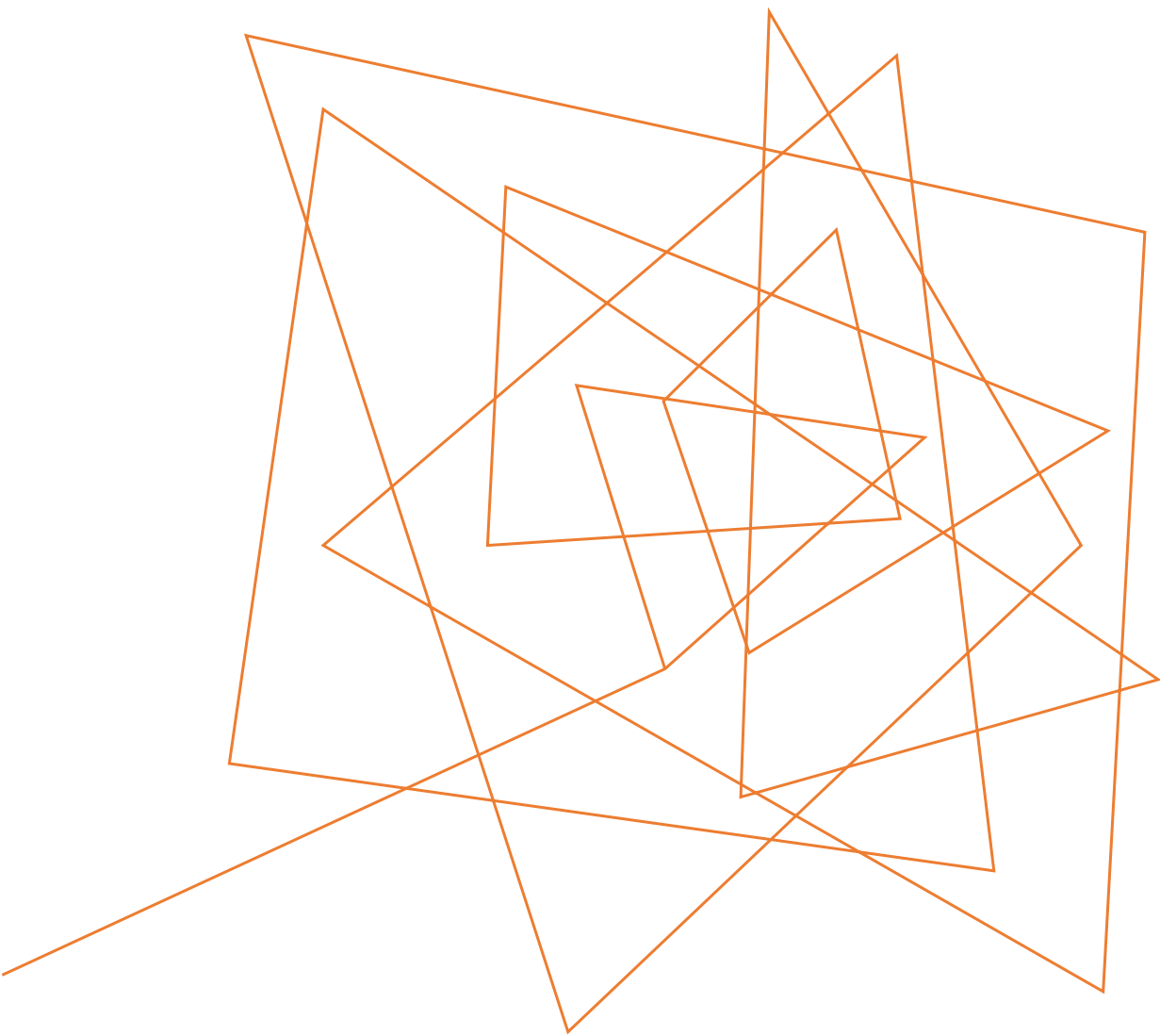
What's Next for the Program?

WHAT: Purpose of Conference

Training, Education, and Networking

WHEN: 2-Day Event

Wednesday, October 9 and Thursday, October 10

WHERE: Host Site

University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)

WHY: Launch Another Conference

1. Expand the Program beyond virtual meetings

2. Piggyback off the success and momentum of the 2022 Event

HOW: Conference Format

1. Day One – Technical Exercises and Non-Technical Incident Response Simulation

2. Day Two – Three Lecture Tracks + 2 Panels

2ND BIENNIAL CYBERSECURITY SYMPOSIUM

CONFERENCE FORMAT DAY 1
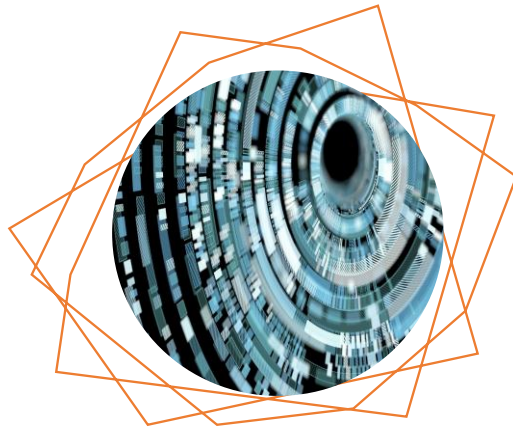
Vulnerability Assessment

Incident Response (IR)

Non-Technical IR

Technical Attendees

Non-Technical Attendees

CONFERENCE FORMAT DAY 2
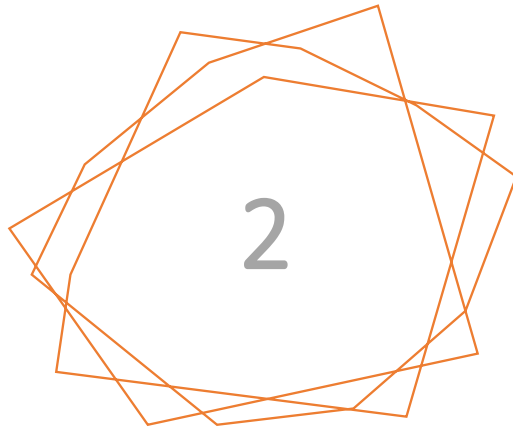
2
Keynote Speeches

AM: NSA / US Cyber Command
Chief Master Sergeant Kenneth M. Bruce, Jr., USAF

PM: Building Cybersecurity
Lucian Niemeyer
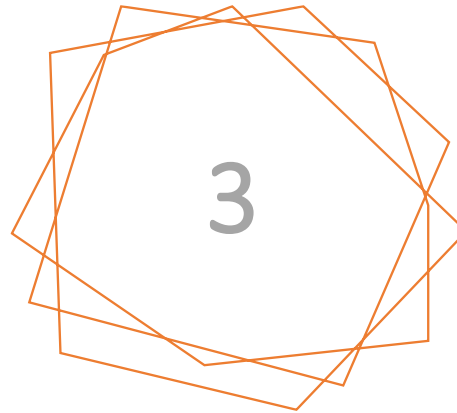
3
Lecture Tracks

12 Total Lecture Classes

2
Panels

Academic-Workforce
Addressing the Talent Shortage in Cybersecurity

Utility Peer Panel
Threats, Trends, and Best Practices

ORGANIZATIONS INVITED TO SPEAK

Federal

- CISA
- DOE
- E-ISAC (NERC)
- FBI (pending)

Commercial-Education-Other

- UTSA
- Electric Grid Cybersecurity Alliance
- Opscura
- Lockton Insurance
- Joint Base San Antonio (pending)

Utilities

- LCRA
- Austin Energy

What The CM Is Not

AN AUDITOR

Texas Cybersecurity Monitor Team

TERENCE GILL
Program Manager (PM)

Prior experience in: Banking, Insurance, and Information Technology

ROGER SIMMONS
Cybersecurity Subject Matter Expert (CSME)

Prior experience in: Cooperative Utility, Department of Defense, State Government, Healthcare and Cloud Software

Questions?