

Michigan's leading approach to cybersecurity

When it comes to cybersecurity, Michigan is forging the future.

With the state's ample resources, talent and infrastructure, Michigan is building a strong cyber ecosystem of cross-sector partners and assets focused on finding innovative solutions to prevent and respond to cyber threats.

It's not only home to the first public school district in the nation to create a cybersecurity program, but the state also has the largest concentration of electrical, mechanical and industrial engineers in the U.S. Currently, there are more than 140,000 people working in the IT and cybersecurity industry in Michigan, more than half of whom are in metro Detroit.

In addition, the state launched the Michigan Cybersecurity Initiative, the world's first comprehensive state-level effort that is improving the state's defenses while fostering rapidly growing cybersecurity industry and the talent needed to respond to cybersecurity incidents throughout the state.

Through this initiative, Michigan is taking a proactive approach to cyber defense with the creation of the [Michigan Cyber Range \(MCR\)](#). Powered by the Merit Network, the MCR offers an unclassified, private environment to teach, test and train individuals and companies for real-world situations. Through classes, exercises and virtual infrastructure, it gives companies an affordable and flexible way to prepare for cybersecurity challenges of all types. Recently, the Cyber Range added two new hubs in Southeast Michigan – Pinckney Community High School and Wayne State University – that serve as centers for the cyber ecosystem within their communities, providing certification courses in more than 20 cybersecurity disciplines.

These efforts, combined with the state's robust automotive and defense industries and evolving autonomous vehicle research and development in the region, are positioning Michigan as a center of excellence in growing and attracting cybersecurity businesses and jobs.

Michigan's defense assets include [Selfridge Air National Guard Base](#) and the 100th Airlift Wing in Battle Creek. In conjunction with the Michigan National Guard, the state has established cyber range extension sites at nearly all bases throughout Michigan, allowing National Guard professionals to train in cybersecurity disciplines and host unclassified cyber exercises with inter-agency and private partners. Currently, the Michigan Army Guard has roughly 600 Michigan and Top Secret computer specialty positions from the Michigan Army Cyber Protection Team and Air National Guard Cyber Squadron.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) also recently formed a partnership with the [U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center \(TARDEC\)](#) to identify economic growth potential in the state's defense sector. The first-of-its-kind research and development agreement includes testing and evaluating autonomous defense vehicles and transportation cybersecurity. In 2017, MEDC and TARDEC hosted the first Commercial CyberTruck Challenge in Southeast Michigan, where college students, U.S. Military Academy cadets, academics and professionals gathered for two days of classroom instruction and hands-on training in cybersecurity for heavy vehicles.

With its thriving defense, mobility, automotive and IT industries and unmatched resources, talent and infrastructure, Michigan's cyber ecosystem offers ample opportunity for leaders and businesses engaged in the future of security.

For more information and inquiries, please visit: www.michiganbusiness.org