



// NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH • SPECIAL EDITION

CyberShield

BULLETIN • CECIL COLLEGE



CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH 2026

SECURE OUR WORLD • CISA / NSA • OCTOBER 2026

22

YEARS OF NCSAM
2004 - 2026

\$9.9M

AVG. DATA BREACH
COST (IBM 2025)

3.5M

UNFILLED CYBER
JOBS WORLDWIDE

99.9%

ATTACKS BLOCKED
BY MFA (MICROSOFT)

// A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FACULTY ADVISORS

October is here — and with it comes the most important month on the cybersecurity calendar. **National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM)** is a call to action for every student, faculty member, staff professional, and community neighbor: the digital threats we face are real, but so are the simple, powerful steps we can each take to push back.

This special edition of the CyberShield Bulletin is dedicated entirely to NCSAM 2026 and the theme "**Secure Our World.**" Inside you'll find CISA's four core security behaviors, Cecil College's month-long campus event calendar, a community challenge you can share with family and friends, and career insight on how October can open doors in the cyber field.

Our club is eight issues strong now. That's eight months of students, alumni, and community members choosing to stay informed. We couldn't be prouder of each one of you.

Let's make October count — on campus and at home.

— Dr. James Morgan & Professor Jacqueline Wilson, Faculty Advisors
Cecil College CS-Cybersecurity Club

// NCSAM 2026 • CISA • NSA • SECURE OUR WORLD

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Since 2004, NCSAM has united government, industry, academia, and communities around one mission: making the digital world safer for everyone. In 2026, the rallying cry is "**Secure Our World**" — a reminder that small, consistent actions by millions of individuals add up to a fundamentally more secure internet for all.

STRONG PASSWORDS PASSPHRASE + MANAGER MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION
PHISHING RECOGNITION SOFTWARE UPDATES



CISA CORE BEHAVIORS

The 4 Things That Matter Most

CISA and NSA agree: if every person in America adopted just these four behaviors, we would dramatically reduce the number of successful cyberattacks. No degree required. No expensive tools needed. Just four habits.



1. Use Strong, Unique Passwords

A strong password is long (16+ characters), random, and never reused. Use a **passphrase** — a string of unrelated words — or let a **password manager** generate and remember it for you. Never reuse the same password across accounts.



2. Turn On Multi-Factor Authentication

MFA adds a second check beyond your password — a code texted to your phone, an authenticator app, or a hardware key. Even if an attacker steals your password, they still can't get in. Enable it on every account that offers it, especially email and banking.



3. Recognize & Report Phishing

Phishing emails, texts, and calls impersonate trusted organizations to steal credentials or install malware. **Pause before you click.** Verify unexpected requests through an official channel. Report suspicious messages to your IT department or forward to reportphishing@apwg.org.



4. Update Software Promptly

Attackers exploit known vulnerabilities in outdated software — often within days of a patch being published. Turn on **automatic updates** for your operating system, browser, apps, and router firmware. "Update later" is an invitation to attackers.

// FROM CISA'S "SECURE OUR WORLD" CAMPAIGN

"These four behaviors are not complicated. They are not expensive. They are the difference between most attacks succeeding and most attacks failing."

CAMPUS EVENTS

October on Campus — Your Month-by-Week Playbook

The Cecil College CS–Cybersecurity Club is rolling out a themed event for every week of October. All students, faculty, staff, and community members are welcome.

WEEK 1 Password Power-Up

Oct 1 – 7

Kick off NCSAM with a hands-on **Password Manager Workshop**. We'll demo Bitwarden and 1Password, build strong passphrases together, and audit your existing passwords with a breach-check tool. Walk out with every major account secured. *Dates and room TBA — watch the club Bulletin Board.*

// PRO TIP

A good passphrase combines 4–5 unrelated words: **Purple-Kayak-Firefly-23** is 10× harder to crack than P@ssw0rd and far easier to remember.

WEEK 2 Phishing Awareness Week

Oct 8 – 14

Can you spot a phish? Join our **Phishing Simulation Lab** — live email analysis, social engineering demo, and a click-rate scoreboard. We'll also walk through Cecil College's

official process for reporting suspicious messages. Prizes for top spotters.

// RED FLAG CHECKLIST

Urgency or fear · Mismatched sender domain · Generic greeting · Unexpected attachment · Link that doesn't match the anchor text. Any one of these: stop, verify, report.

WEEK 3 Device Security Day

Oct 15 - 21

Bring your laptop, tablet, or phone to our **"Security Tune-Up" Drop-In**. Club members will help you enable full-disk encryption, check your update status, review app permissions, activate screen-lock, and set up a VPN for campus Wi-Fi. No appointment needed.

// QUICK WINS

Enable screen lock (≤ 30 sec timeout) · Turn on BitLocker or FileVault · Check for OS updates · Review which apps have camera/mic/location permission · Use a VPN on public Wi-Fi.

WEEK 4 Careers & Community

Oct 22 - 31

Close out the month with a look at where cybersecurity can take you. **Cyber Career Panel** featuring Cecil College alumni, a recruiter from a regional defense contractor, and a CISA outreach specialist. Q&A open to all. We'll also announce the results of the Cecil College Community Cybersecurity Challenge (see below).

// DID YOU KNOW?

Maryland is home to more than 130 cybersecurity firms and federal agencies — including NSA, CISA, DISA, and Cyber Command — within 60 miles of North East, MD. Your degree from an NCAE-CD institution puts you at the front of the line.

TIP OF THE MONTH

The Kitchen Table Conversation

This October, your most powerful cybersecurity action might not be on a keyboard — it might be at the dinner table.

Security awareness month only works if it leaves the campus and reaches everyday people. **This month, teach one person in your life one of the four CISA behaviors.** Show your parent how to turn on MFA for their Gmail. Help a younger sibling create a strong password. Walk a neighbor through spotting a phishing email.

// THE RIPPLE EFFECT

If every one of Cecil College's 3,000+ students teaches one community member this month, that's 3,000 more people defending themselves online. That's real impact —

and it starts with one conversation.

The theme "Secure Our World" means exactly that: *our* world — not just campuses and corporations. Bring cybersecurity home this October.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Cecil College Community Cybersecurity Challenge

We're launching the **first annual Cecil College Community Cybersecurity Challenge** — a 4-week, 4-action program open to all students, faculty, staff, families, and North East community members. Complete all four and earn a certificate of participation from the club.

1



WEEK 1

UPDATE 3+ PASSWORDS USING A MANAGER

2



WEEK 2

ENABLE MFA ON EMAIL & BANKING

3



WEEK 3

ATTEND PHISHING LAB OR COMPLETE ONLINE MODULE

4



WEEK 4

TEACH ONE FAMILY OR COMMUNITY MEMBER

// HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Log your actions on the sign-up sheet at each club event, or email your completed checklist to the club by **October 31, 2026**. Certificates issued at our November meeting. Watch the club's board and social channels for updates.

CAREER CORNER

Make October Work for Your Career

NCSAM isn't just awareness — it's opportunity. Hiring managers across the cyber sector actively engage during October. Here's how to take advantage:

- ▶ **Update your LinkedIn headline** to include "Cybersecurity" and note your Cecil College NCAE-CD affiliation. Recruiters search this month.
- ▶ **Attend CISA's NCSAM virtual events** — free webinars, career panels, and Q&As with federal and private-sector professionals. Registration at cisa.gov.
- ▶ **Earn a free micro-credential.** Google, CompTIA, and (ISC)² run NCSAM promotions. Check their sites for discounted or free exam vouchers and courses.
- ▶ **Engage with #CybersecurityAwarenessMonth** on LinkedIn. Post what you learned this week. Visibility matters to employers.
- ▶ **Come to our Career Panel** (Week 4, Oct 22–31). Bring your resume — recruiters will be there.
- ▶ **Research internships & scholarships** posted via the club — several Maryland-specific opportunities open in Q4. See the sidebar for NICCS and CyberCorps links.

NCSAM RESOURCES

Trusted Resources for Cybersecurity Awareness Month

All free. All reliable. Bookmark these and share them widely:



CISA: Secure Our World

Official NCSAM hub — toolkits, tip sheets, videos, and event listings.

cisa.gov/secure-our-world



NCA: StopSafeOnline

National Cybersecurity Alliance consumer education and NCSAM partner resources.

staysafeonline.org



CISA Free Tools

No-cost cybersecurity services for individuals, small businesses, and schools.

cisa.gov → [Free Tools](#)



NSA Cybersecurity

Technical guidance, advisories, and best-practice documents from NSA's Cybersecurity Directorate.

nsa.gov/cybersecurity



NCAE-CD Network

Connect with students at other NCAE designated colleges and universities nationwide.

caecommunity.org



NICCS Career Portal

Federal cyber career pathways, scholarships, internships, and NCSAM training resources.

niccs.cisa.gov

CLUB CORNER

Eight Issues. One Community.

When Elijah Smith founded this club in 2017, his vision was simple and bold: build a community at Cecil College where cybersecurity education is accessible to everyone — students, faculty, and neighbors alike. This October marks the **8th issue** of the CyberShield Bulletin, and every page reflects that founding vision.

We're proud to say that what started as a newsletter has become a community. Thank you to every reader, contributor, event attendee, and campus supporter who has made this possible.

// LOOKING AHEAD

November: Holiday Scams — Protect Yourself This Shopping Season

December: 2026 Year in Review — The Threats That Defined the Year

November submissions due November 1, 2026. Share a tip, a resource, or a story from your cybersecurity journey. Send to the club email or drop it at a club meeting.

NCSAM 2026 at a Glance

Theme: Secure Our World

Led by: CISA & NSA

Since: 2004 — 22nd Anniversary

Partners: 4,000+ organizations worldwide

Cecil College: NCAE-CD Designated
— your credential matters

October Events

OCT 1 NCSAM Kickoff
Club bulletin launch, community challenge opens

OCT 1-7 Password Power-Up Workshop
Room TBA — all welcome

OCT 8-14 Phishing Simulation Lab
Live email analysis + prizes

OCT 15-21 Device Security Drop-In
Bring your device, we'll secure it

OCT 22-31 Cyber Career Panel
Alumni + recruiter Q&A — bring your resume

OCT 31 Challenge Deadline
Submit your Community Challenge checklist

4 Behaviors — Quick Ref

- 🔑 **Passwords:** Long, unique, password manager
- 🔒 **MFA:** Enable everywhere, especially email
- 🐟 **Phishing:** Pause, verify, report
- 🔄 **Updates:** Auto-update everything, always

SHARE THIS WITH SOMEONE TODAY.

Vol. 2 — Issue Tracker

✓ Done **July 2026** — Back to School

✓ Done **August 2026** — Fall Preparation

✓ Done **September 2026** — Cloud Account Takeover

► Now **October 2026** — NCSAM ★ Special

Next **November 2026** — Holiday Scams

Coming **December 2026** — Year in Review

Get Involved

- Attend any October club event — no RSVP needed
- Complete the Community Challenge by Oct 31
- Submit content for the November issue by Nov 1
- Follow club updates on campus bulletin boards
- Contact Faculty Advisors Dr. Morgan or Prof. Wilson

About This Bulletin

The *CyberShield Bulletin* is published monthly by the **Cecil College Computer Science-Cybersecurity Club**, founded 2017.

Faculty Advisors:

Dr. James Morgan

Professor Jacqueline Wilson

Views expressed are those of club members and advisors and do not represent official Cecil College policy.

CyberShield Bulletin

Cecil College Computer Science-Cybersecurity Club | Founded 2017 | North East, Maryland

Faculty Advisors: Dr. James Morgan & Professor Jacqueline Wilson

Vol. 2 — Issue 4 · **NCSAM Special Edition** · October 2026

This newsletter is for educational purposes and community awareness. Links to external resources do not constitute endorsement by Cecil College.
Report suspicious cybersecurity activity to your IT department.

★ CECIL COLLEGE IS AN NSA/DHS NATIONAL CENTER OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN CYBER DEFENSE (NCAE-CD) ★
PARTICIPATING IN THE NCSAM "SECURE OUR WORLD" CAMPAIGN · CISA · NSA · OCTOBER 2026