Meeting Recording
Maryland Cybersecurity Council
16 June 2022
Zoom Format

The following is an outline of the meeting.
The full meeting recording may be found here.

Council Members Present or Represented (32/57)
Attorney General Brian Frosh (Chair), Dr. David Anyiwo, Barry Boseman, Dr. Anton Dahbura, Delegate Ned Carey, Jessica Curtis and Kurosh Jahromi (for David Engel), Cyril Draffin, Howard Feldman, Michael Greenberger, Terri Jo Hayes, Senator Katie Fry Hester, Clay House, Mark Hubbard (for Walter Landon), Brian Israel, Dr. Kevin Kornegay, Linda Lamone, Secretary Michael Leahy, Mathew Lee, Senator Susan Lee, Bel Leong-hong, Larry Letow, Blair Levin, Delegate MaryAnn Lisanti, Anthony Lisuzzo, Kimberly Mentzell (for Secretary Kelly Schulz), Joseph Morales, Laura Nelson, Rodney Petersen, Markus Rauschecker, Senator Brian Simonaire, Troy Stovall, and Steven Tiller.

Staff Attending
Hanna Abrams (Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General), Howard Barr (Assistant Attorney General and Principal Counsel, Department of Information Technology), Hannibal Kemerer (Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General), Brandon Engle (Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Hester), Michael Lore (Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Susan Lee), Steven Sakamoto-Wengel (Consumer Protection Counsel for Regulation, Legislation and Policy, Office of the Attorney General), Dr. Greg von Lehmen (University of Maryland Global Campus, Staff to the Council).

Council Meeting

Opening Remarks by the Chair

The chair welcomed the members and expressed his appreciation for their commitment to the Council and its work. He reviewed the agenda and then introduced the guest speaker, Professor Emerita Shoshana Zuboff of the Harvard Business School.

Presentation

Professor Zuboff organized her comments around three themes: what is the nature of the transformation that is underway (surveillance capitalism), how did this transformation happen, and what is to be done (mitigate at the margins or reset and reclaim privacy in the digital future). In regard to the last point, Professor Zuboff emphasized that the question does not concern the internet and technological advancement so much as how economic logic has deployed them.
There were two questions of the speaker after her presentation.

Attorney General Frosh: What would be the most basic step to effect a reset? Answer: Privacy legislation that would prohibit the commercial gathering of personal data unless the consumer consents or explicitly “opts in”.

Senator Lee: Efforts to protect privacy face significant pressure. The argument in part is that regulation will stifle innovation and economic development. How can privacy legislation, perhaps first focused on the privacy of children, be advanced? Answer: The arguments made today by large digital companies are very similar to those made by the industrialists in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Regulation did not slow innovation. The key is to develop a cadre of legislators who really understand the issues so that they are able to filter the arguments that are made by companies invested in collecting personal data.

Professor Zuboff’s schedule required her to leave the meeting. The Attorney General expressed his appreciation for her presentation. She offered to be available for any follow-up questions that Council might have.

Business Meeting

The Attorney General confirmed that a quorum of the Council was present. He called for the minutes of January 24, 2022, which were approved without change on motions duly made and seconded by Bel Leong-hong and Delegate Ned Carey, respectively.

Updates

The Attorney General mentioned that Don Fry had stepped down from his Council seat. This was because he had recently retired as President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. Mr. Fry had chaired Council meetings for the Attorney General from time to time, served in the General Assembly, and had a history with cybersecurity policy going back to his membership on Senator Lee’s legislative commission. The Attorney General thanked Don for his service to Maryland and wished him well.

Subcommittee Reports

Subcommittee on Law, Policy, and Legislation. On behalf of her co-chair, Blair Levin, and herself, Senator Lee discussed three bills from the last session that her subcommittee had informed and supported in hearings. These were SB 643/HB 962 (Commercial Law - Maryland Personal Information Protection Act - Revisions), SB 325/HB 769 (Student Data Privacy - Protections, Digital Tools, and Student Data Privacy Council), and SB 11(Workgroup on Online Consumer Personal Information Privacy). She also noted that an ad hoc committee of the Council was being launched to inform privacy legislation in the 2023 session. Meetings will be scheduled for July and September, and all stakeholders will be invited. The report will be released prior to the next session.

Subcommittee on Incident Response. Secretary Leahy mentioned that the subcommittee had met in April and was scheduled to meet later in the month. He noted that an important topic for the
subcommittee in light of the recent State legislation is how to take the lessons learned at the State level and share those with local units of government. With that introduction, he asked Mr. Chip Stewart, the State CISO, to provide an update on assessments underway at the State level. Mr. Stewart’s comments touched on the assessments of agencies using the NIST cybersecurity framework, external penetration testing, and internal penetration testing. He observed that the results will inform the State’s cybersecurity short-term and longer-term strategic planning.

Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure. Mr. Rauschecker noted that the subcommittee had met earlier in the month. The subcommittee has continued to receive briefings from the cybersecurity committee of the Emergency Numbers Systems Board (ENSB) on the NextGen 911 system. This is to fulfill the Council’s duty under statute to advise the ENSB committee on security of the new system. The subcommittee also received a briefing from the State Public Service Commission on what the PSC is doing in the public interest to ensure the cybersecurity of the electric grid serving Maryland. Finally, apart from its efforts to build the repository, the subcommittee discussed its goals for the immediate future. This discussion centered on what the subcommittee could do to raise awareness about innovations that could be a resource for critical infrastructure serving Maryland.

Subcommittee on Education and Workforce Development. Mr. Brandon Engle, Chief of Staff for Senator Hester, offered the subcommittee report for her. He noted that the Cybersecurity Association of Maryland (CAMI) and other members of the subcommittee were very active in the last session to inform and support SB 753 (Education and Labor and Employment - Cyber Warrior Diversity Program and Workforce Development for Cybersecurity). The bill did not pass but work will be done in the interim to ready the bill for the next session. Mr. Cohen also noted that CAMI had received EARN grant money from the State for cyber workforce development.

Subcommittee on Economic Development. Bel Leong-hong stated that the subcommittee had met in March. She was not able to chair the meeting and thanked Mr. Fry for doing so for her. The meeting was a joint one with representatives of economic development authorities for Howard County, Montgomery County, Anne Arundel County, and Frederick County. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the county-level initiatives in cybersecurity workforce development. There were a number of action items that came out of the meeting. The subcommittee believes that it will be beneficial to continue consulting with the counties and to collaborate where possible.

Subcommittee on Public and Community Outreach. Sue Rogan noted that the subcommittee was working on two initiatives. One is a baseline survey of adults in Maryland to gauge their cyber awareness, data backup habits, cyber hygiene, and their personal history with cyber incidents. The survey will be administered on Mechanical Turk, and the data will be processed through Qualtrix. She expressed her appreciation to Dr. Dahbura and Mr. Joseph Carrigan at the Johns Hopkins Information Security Institute for their work on the survey and to both Dr. Dahbura and Laura Nelson of the National Cryptologic Foundation for financially supporting the launch of the survey. The other initiative is focused on cybersecurity-related webinars with the Attorney General in the summer and fall. She mentioned that she has been in touch with the Attorney General’s staff in this connection.
Final Update

Senator Katie Fry Hester provided an update on the outcomes of the last legislative session with respect to various cybersecurity bills that she sponsored. She noted that these bills were informed by the Council’s ad hoc committee report on State and local government cybersecurity. The bills that she reviewed were SB 812/HB 1346 (State Government - Cybersecurity - Coordination and Governance), SB 811/HB 1205 (State Government - Information Technology and Cybersecurity-Related Infrastructure (Modernize Maryland Act of 2022)), SB 754/HB 1203 (Local Government Cybersecurity - Coordination and Operations (Local Cybersecurity Support Act of 2022)), SB 810 (Cybersecurity - Critical Infrastructure and Public Service Companies (Critical Infrastructure Security Act of 2022)), and SB 753 (Education and Labor and Employment - Cyber Warrior Diversity Program and Workforce Development for Cybersecurity). She stated that among her top priorities for the 2023 session will be to pass a version of SB 753 and to address some of the unfinished business connected with the other bills.

Other Business and Adjournment.

The Attorney General asked if there was further business. Hearing none, the meeting was duly adjourned on motions from Delegate Carey and Senator Simonaire, respectively.