

Cyber Alliance

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MESSAGE FROM THE NIIN CYBER ALLIANCE CHAIR

The NIIN Cyber Alliance is a great example of a “triple-helix” construct of industry, universities and government co-operating to deliver on the national cyber security strategy. The Alliance is driven by a collective need to build Australia’s cyber resilience through practical action, research and innovation leadership and information sharing.

As the new Chair of the NIIN Cyber Alliance I am already greatly encouraged by the breadth and depth of activity across the network. From pioneering forums on open-source software security to strengthening international collaborations, the Alliance is mobilising expertise where it matters most. The transition of the Alliance into the broader NIIN ecosystem opens exciting opportunities. By connecting with NIIN’s innovation centres, research chairs, and national industry partners, the Cyber Alliance is positioned to drive impact at scale.

I am looking forward to watching the NIIN Cyber Alliance continue to evolve and bring additional scale and diversity to what is already a very important network.



Prof Anton Middelberg FTSE
Chair, NIIN Cyber Alliance

CYBER ALLIANCE HIGHLIGHTS

NIIN presence at Tech-in-Gov Conference

Tech in Gov is Australia’s premier government technology conference. In August it brought together senior-level policymakers, technology leaders, CIOs, and cybersecurity executives from across federal, state, and local agencies. The NIIN had a presence at the event with UC-Cisco Research Chair in Critical Infrastructure Prof. Frank den Hartog presenting on emerging threats to Australia’s critical infrastructure including the implications for Private 5G deployments. The NIIN Cyber Alliance also hosted an executive panel dinner hosted by UC Vice Chancellor Bill Shorten. The topic of conversation at the dinner included Australia’s critical infrastructure security, the impact of AI and importance of collaboration between government, academia, and industry.

UTS Cyber Security Precinct Launched

Launched in June, the precinct is a state-of-the-art immersive facility designed to accelerate Australia’s cyber resilience. It aims to bridge the skills gap, unite industry and academia, and increase national cyber resilience. The precinct includes a CSOC and is a key part of the Tech Central precinct. The launch featured a panel discussion, hosted by Ian Oppermann former NSW Chief Data Scientist, UTS Industry Professor, Commonwealth Data Standards Chair and Co-founder of ServiceGen.

Transition of Alliance Management to University of Canberra

Program management of the NIIN Cyber Alliance has formally transitioned from Aus3C to the University of Canberra. This change means all NIIN universities are now recognised as full Cyber Alliance partners, simplifying engagement and ensuring the Alliance reflects the breadth of NIIN's national network. This transition marks an important next chapter in strengthening the Alliance's role in advancing Australia's cyber capability.

Introducing Deniz Molokov, CISO, Downer

Deniz Molokov has joined the NIIN Cyber Alliance Advisory Committee as an industry representative. Deniz is the Chief Information Security Officer at Downer and brings cyber security experience across transport, telecommunications, energy, defence, mining and critical infrastructure.

"I'm excited to contribute to the NIIN Cyber Alliance Advisory Committee to ensure industry perspectives are front and centre. Strengthening collaboration between academia, government, and business is critical to building the resilient cyber security capabilities Australia needs." - Deniz Molokov, CISO, Downer.



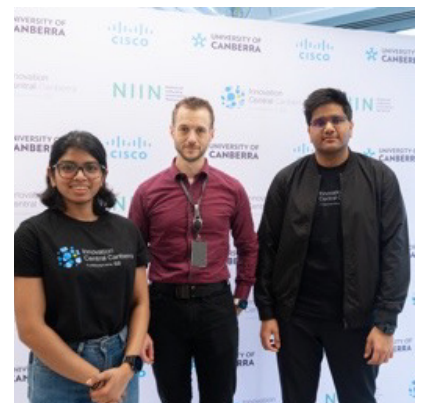
RECENT CYBER ALLIANCE PROJECTS

Zero Trust Security for Healthcare

Healthcare is a prime target for cyber-attacks, with incidents threatening patient safety, privacy, and the delivery of care. This project is developing a practical zero-trust cybersecurity blueprint tailored to healthcare, giving providers a clear framework to strengthen system security and safeguard patient outcomes. Led by Professor Trish Williams, NIIN Research Chair in Digital Health at Flinders University, the project is shaping cybersecurity practice in healthcare and mapping Cisco solutions to zero-trust implementation, ensuring benefits flow directly into real-world settings.

Student Project: Prioritising High-Risk Security Threats

Innovation Central Canberra students Jayan Siyani and Urvi Ray developed a Cyber Threat Intelligence Tool to help overwhelmed cybersecurity teams manage multiple threat alerts. Done in collaboration with the NIIN and Cisco's AEGIS program, the tool prioritises critical intelligence and was tested in Micro soft environments, demonstrating potential fully automated workflows that help early detection and response to threats. The project is an example of how the NIIN is producing practical application for industry while simultaneously developing Australia's future talent pipeline.



RECENT CYBER ALLIANCE PROJECTS

Rivernet, Cisco & Innovation Central Canberra/Brisbane

An event for government and government-adjacent organisations in Canberra. The session will explore practical cybersecurity issues facing the public sector regarding AI and DevOps initiatives, with perspectives from Rivernet, Cisco, and NIIN Innovation Centrals.

Learn more: <https://events.humanitix.com/rivernet-trusted-tested-secured>

AHECS Cybersecurity Summit 2025

Australia's leading forum for cybersecurity in higher education and research. The summit brings together IT and security leaders to share strategies, strengthen sector resilience, and highlight practical solutions.

Learn more: <https://caudit.eventsair.com/2025-ahecs-cybersecurity-summit/registrations>

Behind the Breach: Understanding Cyber Threats

A hands-on short course designed for professionals seeking to strengthen their cybersecurity capability. Participants learn from academic and industry experts, apply skills in real-world scenarios, and earn both a UC Certificate of Completion and Cisco digital badges.

Learn more: https://events.humanitix.com/behind-the-breach-understanding-cyber-threats?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Executive Breakfast – Higher Education Cybersecurity

A roundtable breakfast and expert panel discussion focused on the latest cybersecurity trends in the higher education sector. Participants will hear insights from CAUDIT, Educause and NIIN research, and exchange experiences with peers.

Learn more: https://web.cvent.com/event/ca1970d2-9ab1-41a9-babe-a3bb5320f0d2/regProcessStep1?utm_source=chatgpt.com

National Cyber Competition – Expressions of Interest

Innovation Central Melbourne is exploring the development of a national cyber competition, similar to "MasterTech for Cyber". The competition will bring together universities and industry partners to showcase talent and build practical capability in cybersecurity.

Contact: Jeff Jones for more information (Jeffrey.Jones@latrobe.edu.au)

Summer National Innovation Central Internship Program

A summer program connecting students with applied projects across all Innovation Centrals. It offers industry partners the opportunity to engage fresh talent while providing students with hands-on experience.

Contact: James Stewart for more information or to offer a project (jamesste@cisco.com)

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