From the Director

Ryan Kocsondy, CEN Director

Member colleagues,

2019 was another successful year for CEN and its community as we continue to grow with additional members and services.

The rollout of our new website and introduction of new Managed Firewall Services has been widely accepted by the membership. The focus is service to our members and ensuring we promote and support innovative and state of the art platforms. We will be commemorating 20 years of CEN at this year's conference and look forward to your help in celebrating this milestone. Please register for the Pre-Conference Workshops taking place on the 7th and the Member Conference taking place on the 8th of May 2020. I hope you had a safe and happy holiday season, and I look forward to 2020.

Regards,

Ryan

Goal 1: Provide Value

CEN Welcomes New Members

The CEN Community continues to grow as we welcome our newest members:

- West Hartford Bloomfield Health District
- Sacred Heart Academy
- Holy Cross High School
- Babcock Library - Ashford
- Grove School
- Town of Litchfield

Learn More About CEN Member Benefits

E-Rate Form 470 March Deadline

Reminders to E-rate Applicants:

Post your E-rate Form 470 Description of Services Requested and Certification Form early so that you are ready for the spring Funding Year 20 Application Filing Window. The date for the filing window has not been issued yet by USAC (Universal Service Administrative Co.).

USAC's website offers on-demand applicant training courses at no cost. These courses include the content delivered in the 2019 fall applicant training series. https://www.usac.org/sl/about/outreach/applicant-training-series.aspx

Sign up for the E-rate electronic News Brief Newsletter to stay informed about upcoming deadlines, Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL's) release dates, application window timeline, rule changes, etc. https://fe391570756406797d1477.pub.s10.sfmc-content.com/3n2usens2cz

E-Rate Category 2 Enhancements

Category 2 E-Rate rules and budgets have been recently changed providing increased benefits to K-12 districts/schools and libraries. There are applicable changes to the current E-Rate Funding Year 2020 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021) and to future years.

Category 2 Enhancements Webinar
Friday, 1/31, 11AM - 12PM

We invite you to join CEN and E-Rate Provider Services for a webinar on the E-Rate Category 2 Enhancements and an explanation of how your organization can benefit.

Topics to be covered include:
- Additional budget for Funding Year 2020
- Districtwide budget and rule changes for Funding Year 2021
- Example budget calculations
- Eligible CEN services

Goal 2: Ignite Innovation

Now Available:

CEN Firewall Service

Featuring:
- Virtual and Fully Managed Solutions

- High Availability and Geo-Diverse Design
- Enterprise Class Technology
- Intrusion Prevention Service
- Advanced Malware Protection
- E-Rate Eligible

Coming Soon:

- Rapid Private Internet (RPI)
- E-Sports Connectivity
- DNS Firewall
- Eduroam Pilot
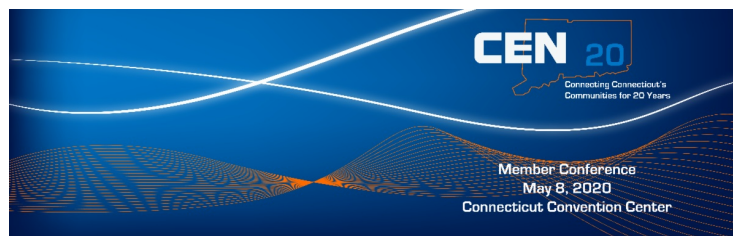- Service Management Advisory Council Survey Results

In Development:

- 2nd Web Filtering Service
- Albert (MS-ISAC IDS monitoring)

Contact CEN Member Relations, (860) 622-4560, option 5, for more information and pricing!

Goal 3: Foster Collaboration

CEN Member Conference
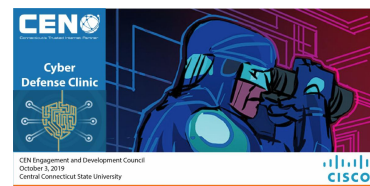May 7-8, 2020, Hartford, CT

About the Conference

For 20 years, CEN has been Connecticut's premier provider of high-performance Internet services for all Connecticut's communities. Join us, **May 7-8, 2020**, at the 2020 CEN Member Conference to celebrate this major milestone and to participate in an expanded two day event featuring more training, collaboration, education, and networking than ever before! You can also expect an enjoyable look at CEN's founding, growth, and future plans.

Register to attend

Submit a proposal

CEN Cyber Defense Clinic
October 3, 2019
CCSU, New Britain, CT

Thank you to the participants of the Cyber Defense Clinic in October. Cyber security is a topic that impacts all CEN members. CEN's Cyber Defense Clinic provided members with

current threat profiles and updates on recent developments in threat management. The 100 seat event sold out in just a couple of days.

The event was presented by Cisco, providing hands-on interaction with the latest tools for IT professionals to hone their cybersecurity expertise. It offered a unique opportunity to work with an advanced set of automated, integrated, cybersecurity technologies. Participants saw popular hacking tools in action and gained experience defending critical data. Utilizing an environment that models many enterprise networks, participants learned how environments get compromised, how breaches get discovered, and how to respond most effectively with Cisco Security products and integrated solution architectures.

With its high popularity and strong reviews, CEN will be offering the clinic again at the CEN Member Pre-Conference, May 7, 2020!

CEN Forum - Protecting Our Communities from Ransomware Attacks
November 19, 2019
CCSU, New Britain, CT

Thank you to the presenters and participants of our forum on ransomware protection, which took place in November. News stories are plentiful of cities and towns paying tens of thousands of dollars to ransomware hackers to get their data back, and this does not include the millions

spent in cleanup and in rebuilding a network following an attack. Ransomware attacks are perhaps the greatest current threat to our members' networks, private data, operational continuity, and financial health.

CEN community members, security experts, and homeland security representatives took part in this important CEN Forum - Protecting Our Communities from Ransomware Attacks on November 19 at Central Connecticut State University.

Participants in this forum learned more about:
- What are the current threats, and how are they recognized?
- What steps can be taken now to protect your organization's data and infrastructure?
- How can you create and sustain end-user education to strengthen the weakest link?
- What will this cost, and how can you justify it?

Ransomware is a very popular topic, and due to the session's success, we will be running a similar event in March. Please stay tuned for more information on similar forums in the future!

Goal 4: Promote Advocacy

CEN Offers Town Hall Meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended our Town Hall meetings held across the state in November and early December. We enjoyed hearing from our members and look forward to continuing these next year.

The meeting agenda included:
- CEN Strategy Update and Plans
- CEN Services Updates – CEN Firewall, iBoss Filtering, DNS Firewall
- Community Training Events and Future Requests
- CEN Member Conference Expansion and Preview
- Member Questions and Feedback

Over 130 members registered for these informal and engaging meetings. Many thanks to our member hosts at UConn Avery Point, SCSU, Fairfield University, and EdAdvance!

Look for more in-person training and engagement events in the new year.

Goal 5: Enhance Core Resources

Welcome New CEN Employees

Brad Tudisca

Bradley Tudisca graduated in 2019 from Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelor's in Networking Information Technology. He worked at Charter Oak State College in New Britain for 4 years as a Junior System Administrator. He moved to UConn but decided he wanted to do more on the network side of things and joined the CEN team as a Network Technician. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with family and friends, going to NYC, and seeing Billy Joel in concert.

Michael Harris

Michael joined the CEN leadership team in November 2019 as the Business Services Supervisor and provides oversight and direction to CEN's business activities including finance, accounting, contracts, compliance, E-Rate, and administrative support operations. Michael earned his MBA from UConn and brings over 20 years' experience in business, finance, and

technology management to the team. He is father of two, a native of Hartford, active in his community, and enjoys building lasting relationships with his colleagues and peers.
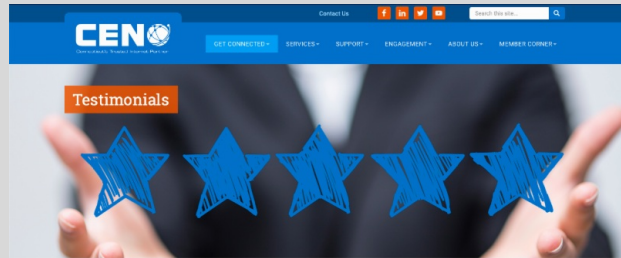
Visit Our Website

Member Feedback

Review

We appreciate your thoughts and comments. Leave us a review on our **Facebook page**!

**Rachael Collard
CEN Marketing & Publicity
Coordinator**

STAY CONNECTED