A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the Iowa Communications Network

ICN's Virtual Cybersecurity Roadshow

ICN's cybersecurity team is back with a Virtual Cybersecurity Roadshow
on Tuesday, October 20 from 1 PM – 3 PM.
This is a free virtual event geared towards ICN's authorized users.
Get more information and register today!

Connecting farmers to share agronomic data

A grant from the National Science Foundation to develop tech that will allow farmers to pool data and share knowledge to guide responses to production obstacles such as weeds, disease and pests.

Source: Iowa State University

Education

Where Parents Turn When Kids Can't Attend School Online
A nonprofit org based in Georgia, is one of hundreds of after-school providers, child-care centers, churches & community groups to open digital learning hubs in the state.
Source: Center for Digital Education

4 Tips for Supporting Parents During Remote Learning
Remote Learning can be a challenge but here are a few tips to make sure it's more of a success. Keys include prioritizing IT (automate!) and teacher training.
Source: Ed Tech K-12

Single Working Parents Struggle as Kids Learn Online at Home
The remote learning models adopted this year are creating challenges for parents, particularly if they are single parents with jobs that don't allow them to work from home.
Source: Government Technology

Codecademy Expands Online Coding Education
The online learning platform launches a new student membership, as well as a partnership with Clever reaching high school teachers and their classrooms.
Source: eSchool News

National K-12 Cybersecurity Learning Standards Development Underway
The standards will help ensure that students not only have a foundational understanding of cybersecurity, but the skills and knowledge to pursue cybersecurity careers.
Source: MeriTalk State and Local

Public Safety

How FirstNet supports innovations for 9-1-1 and emergency communicators
Want to know more about how @FirstNet helps emergency comms centers stay connected during emergencies? Check out this blog from our #911 expert, John Hunt, to learn how #FirstNet keeps tactical dispatch and TERTs operational at all times.
Source: FirstNet

FirstNet: Improving Communications for Public Safety
The tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001 revealed radios did not easily operate across agencies, & phone lines were overwhelmed by high call volumes. 9/11 spurred new communication solutions.
Source: US Dept of Commerce

People in Toronto may soon have the option to text 911 for services
The real-time SMS technology goes both ways, so dispatchers can respond to texters like they would any other 911 call.
Source: blogTO

Digital Divide

Expanding Broadband Access Across Iowa
Current statistics and efforts by the state to expand broadband access that have begun to take place in recent years. Read about the Empower Rural Iowa Act, Cares Act Funding, & ISU research project.
Source: Clay and Milk

Once an Internet Underdog, Satellite Is Having a Moment
More than 2 million customers in the United States pay for satellite Internet, and big-name players like Amazon and SpaceX are spending billions to enter the market.
Source: Government Technology

RD's ReConnect Program: Supporting Agricultural Innovation by Bridging the Digital Divide
This is part of a blog series that highlights investments to advance automation and mechanization for specialty crops.
Source: US Dept of Agriculture

Massachusetts Schools Seek Exploration of Muni Broadband
After the district scrambled this summer to provide Internet to families to support remote learning, a school panel voted to ask city leaders to look into municipal broadband.
Source: Government Technology

Government

2020 Puts Cloud Computing in Government to the Test
State & local public-sector agencies have been making a move toward "cloud first" and "cloud smart" strategies. COVID-19 gave them the change to prove whether those investments paid off.
Source: Government Technology

How government is delivering better election security
"While there are no guarantees in cybersecurity, I can assure you that the security defenses we have in place for 2020 are vastly improved over those in place a short four years ago."
Source: GCN

Cybesecurity

Why Are Some Cybersecurity Professionals Not Finding Jobs?
Global hiring experts declare huge shortages of cybersecurity professionals, so why are some

qualified people still having a hard time even getting an interview? Let's explore.
Source: Government Technology

[Tech's next biggest challenge is holding itself accountable, as the industry prepares for 5G and a wearables boom](#)
Privacy has become a dominant part of the conversation about tech.
Source: Business Insider

Healthcare

[Hospital ICUs lean on telemedicine amid U.S. COVID-19 crisis](#)
Faraway doctors are helping treat the community's COVID-19 patients, thanks to technology.
Source: KFGO Radio

[Health IT one year from today: 8 CIO predictions](#)
Eight hospital and health system CIOs discuss what will be different about health IT one year from today and what will be the same.
Source: Becker's Hospital Review

[Defining the post-COVID-19 digital transformation of healthcare](#)
The scramble to support a predominantly remote care model is now giving way to a more measured evaluation of telehealth technologies.
Source: CIO

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network
providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting [services](#) to
Iowa's healthcare, education, government, and public safety sectors.