



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Gov. Kim Reynolds announces members of new Computer Science Work Group

“Computer science is no longer an elective course, but a basic skill every student needs to succeed in a technology-driven workplace,” said Gov. Reynolds.

Source: Office of the Governor

Education

[A virtual Hour of Code starts now](#)

More than 8 million new students joined Code.org to begin learning computer science. Whether you're at home or in the classroom, anyone can host or participate in an Hour of Code!

Source: Code.org

[Learn as you play with the CyberStart Game](#)

A free national program for high school students to master cybersecurity as a gateway to the industry, up their digital skills, & compete for scholarships!

Source: CyberStart

[5 Things We've Learned About Virtual School In 2020](#)

The heart of the job right now is getting students connected with school and keeping them that way — both technologically and even more importantly, emotionally.

Source: Iowa Public Radio

[Connected Nation, Funds For Learning Launch “Connect K-12” to Help State, District Leaders Improve School Connectivity](#)

Connect K-12, a free website that provides internet speed and pricing transparency information to help schools identify broadband solutions and negotiate better deals for services.

Source: Connected Nation

Government

[MS-ISAC hits 10,000 members, eyes continued growth with local governments](#)

It's helped foster a culture of intelligence sharing among state and local governments that are maturing as cybersecurity organization.

Source: StateScoop

[How Biden Could Change the Conversation on Cybersecurity](#)

The incoming administration could mean significant changes for technology in federal cybersecurity. The increased attention will mean changes for state and local governments as well.

Source: Government Technology

Healthcare

[How health care systems are expanding telehealth to deliver care safely during Covid-19](#)

"Today, telehealth is a sustainable, long-term tool in our toolkit. It elevates safety, flexibility, convenience and access."

Source: Kansas City Business Journal

[How the COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping healthcare with technology](#)

Geisinger Health's IT organization has kept up with a 500% increase in telehealth visits and a doubling of remote workers to 13,000 employees.

Source: CIO

Public Safety

[Emergency Communications Centers and FirstNet](#)

One of their most important roles is to proactively engage with the public safety community about how FirstNet can benefit emergency communications.

Source: FirstNet

[App helps police find 911 callers who don't know their location](#)

Several police services across Ontario are using a new mobile app that helps first responders find 911 callers who don't know their location.

Source: CTVNews

[Defense bill set to pass with state cybersecurity programs](#)

The final draft of the National Defense Authorization Act includes language that formalizes & expands the role that National Guard units play in cyber operations.

Source: StateScoop

Cybersecurity

[This holiday season, help friends and family avoid a scam](#)

Read these tips from the FTC's Pass it On campaign for ideas, and then tell people where to find them.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

[5 keys to supporting telework effectively and securely](#)

Suddenly countless numbers of people are working from home. This massive shift can have huge repercussions from a security, privacy, regulatory and data governance standpoint.

Source: Insider Pro

[Somehow, it managed to get worse': Ransomware ticks up in 2020](#)

Multiple strains of extortion malware have continued to wreak havoc across IT organizations, particularly state and local governments trying to survive through COVID-19.

Source: StateScoop

Digital Divide

[Montana Library Offering Hot Spots to Help Close Digital Divide](#)

The Library is offering Wi-Fi hot spots in an effort to close connectivity gaps and bolster online learning and work while the library facilities are closed to visitors.

Source: Government Technology

[Iowans can't afford to wait for better broadband](#)

Just like roads and bridges were once considered foundational infrastructure in our community, we

now need to focus on broadband to get us where we need to go.

Source: The Gazette

Broadband Blues

As technology continues to evolve, ensuring farmers have adequate broadband capabilities is only going to grow in importance.

Source: Successful Farming

Starlink, SpaceX's satellite internet project, seen in Eastern Iowa skies Friday night

Starlink is the name of a satellite network that the private spaceflight company SpaceX is developing to provide low-cost internet to remote locations.

Source: KCRG

A Broken Piece of Internet Backbone Might Finally Get Fixed

A task force specifically dedicated to helping "content delivery networks" and other cloud services adopt the filters and cryptographic checks needed.

Source: Wired

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting [services](#) t