



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



DDoS ATTACKS

The risks of DDoS attacks for the public sector

Distributed denial of service cyberattacks have been around for decades, but they have become an even more acute problem in the last few years, especially to public institutions.

Source: Educause

Cybersecurity

[SMS Phishing Is Getting Out Of Control](#)

Consumers and security companies report a concerning increase in scams via text message phishing, also known as smishing.

Source: VICE

[SolarWinds hack is quickly reshaping Congress's cybersecurity agenda](#)

More cybersecurity funding for states and Capitol, new breach reporting rules, and ransomware-related bills will likely be on the agenda for the 117th Congress.

Source: CSO

[NASCIO pushes feds for more cybersecurity help](#)

NASCIO is pushing for harmonized federal cybersecurity regulations, a dedicated cybersecurity grant program for state and local governments and widespread adoption of the .gov domain.

Source: GCN

[Higher Education Community Vendor Assessment Toolkit](#)

"Organizations need to have a strict vetting process in place and ask a potential third-party partner the right questions."

Source: Educause

Education

[Presidential Primary Sources Project: New Sessions Start January 2021](#)

Highlights year include Washington and the Whiskey Rebellion, President Clinton's Public Diplomacy in Northern Ireland, and Black Americans and the Great Depression.

Source: Internet2

[How to Help Students Develop the Skills They Need to Complete Homework](#)

Middle and high school students can learn to work more efficiently by using strategies that improve their executive function skills.

Source: Edutopia

[SoapyCilantro: A Hands-On Introduction to Genomics in the #IowaSTEM Scale-Up Program](#)

Pramod Mahajan, associate professor of pharmacology at Drake University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, explains the SoapyCilantro Project, which empowers Iowa high school educators to help prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Source: SE Iowa STEM

[Top IT Issues, 2021: Emerging from the Pandemic](#)

The EDUCAUSE 2021 Top IT Issues examine three potential scenarios for the role of technology in higher education after the pandemic: restore, evolve, or transform.

Source: Internet2

Digital Divide

[FCC adopts new broadband data mapping rules](#)

The Federal Communications Commission announced new rules on Tuesday for internet providers reporting their coverage data. The change is part of its "Digital Opportunity Data Collection" initiative, an effort to improve the accuracy of its nationwide broadband maps.

Source: State Scoop

[Rural residents say there is a need for better broadband across the state](#)

"We've got to make sure that these dollars are used wisely... We need to future proof the legislation to make sure that we spend the funding wisely."

Source: KCRG-TV

[FCC announces funding for connected care services pilot programs](#)

This program will make available up to \$100M over a three-year period for selected pilot projects, emphasizing on connected care services to low-income and veteran patients.

Source: CBS 19 News

Government

[Rural Iowans Hopeful the Legislature Can Approve Spending for Broadband Upgrades](#)

Let's "declare that every part of Iowa will have affordable high speed broadband by 2025."

Source: WHO-TV

[The Last Broadband Gifts From the 116th Congress](#)

The Benton Institute's look at the broadband components from the Dec. COVID19 relief legislation. Emergency Broadband Benefit, Connecting Minority Communities, Better Broadband Maps, and more!

Source: Benton Institute

[10 Dos and Don'ts for Government Cybersecurity Leaders](#)

Keep these best practices in mind for effective security management.

Source: Government Technology

Healthcare

[Two experts speak on the benefits of telehealth](#)

They both agree telehealth needs to remain an option for patients long after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

Source: KMVT News

[Telehealth is here to stay](#)

Legislators on both sides of the aisle have called on congressional leaders to expand access and the AMA is throwing its support behind legislation that would expand funding and reduce regulations on telehealth.

Source: Marketplace

[Just how secure are #telehealth applications? How can doctors use it to improve your diagnosis? Get the facts about telehealth.](#)

The coronavirus pandemic took the need for telehealth from a "luxury" to a necessity. But, for many, there are challenges and untapped opportunities for accessing this important technology.

Source: Connected Nation

Libraries

[Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries](#)

Congratulations to the Iowa libraries that received one of the Libraries Transforming Communities grants. See a list of the round 1 recipients and learn how your library can be part of Round 2.

Source: American Library Association

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.