A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: July 30, 2021

Stop Ransomware Guidance and Resources

It takes a group effort to stop ransomware. View the whole-of-government effort to help individuals and organizations curb the rise of ransomware.

Source: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Cybersecurity

5 Questions to Ask When Evaluating Cybersecurity Assessments
Here's a look at what a comprehensive, successful cybersecurity assessment should answer.
Source: EdTech for Higher Education

NYC opens cyber operations center
New York City is opening a cybersecurity operations center staffed with 282 public- and private-sector partners who will be sharing intelligence on potential cyber threats.
Source: GCN

Education

Iowa State STEM outreach programs join forces to expand reach across state
ISU's FLEx program is expanding to include space-oriented activities thanks to a NASA grant & a recent partnership with students in the WiSE program.
Source: Iowa State University

The Benefits of Cloud Object Storage for Higher Education
Cloud object storage offers a different approach for data retention. Here's a look at how it differs from on-premises and traditional cloud storage methods.
Source: EdTech for Higher Education

Digital Divide

3.3 Million Households Seek Discounted Broadband
As of July 4, 2021, the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program has enrolled 3,336,425 households. A significant need that exists to deliver broadband connections into communities.
Source: Funds For Learning

Digital divide: We must end the struggle of being 'under-connected'
We need to attend to the under-connected — the many millions of American homes with internet

access that is inadequate or inconsistent--to truly resolve digital inequality.
Source: The Hill

[Home broadband adoption, computer ownership vary by race, ethnicity in the U.S.](#)
By contrast, there are no statistically significant racial and ethnic differences when it comes to smartphone or tablet ownership.
Source: Pew Research Center

Government

[USDA invests $14 million in rural economic development projects in 10 states](#)
USDA provides zero-interest loans and grants to utilities that will lend funds to local businesses for projects that create and retain employment in rural areas.
Source: KTTN Radio

[Indiana County Upgrades Its Voting Machine Technology](#)
"We are always trying to stay as up-to-date as possible ... to keep the elections as secure as possible."
Source: Government Technology

Healthcare

[If telehealth is here to stay, why are we still treating it like a temporary solution?](#)
Suggestions on what to look for in a long-term telehealth platform.
Source: Medical Economics

[Relentless cyber attacks are putting financial pressure on hospitals](#)
The sector is viewed as a target-rich environment due to the large amount of sensitive data that healthcare entities maintain for patient care and operations.
Source: Fierce Health IT

Public Safety

[FirstNet for 9-1-1 / Emergency Communications](#)
FirstNet provides a reliable network that includes priority, preemption, and quality of service — key features that ensure your communications are heard, even when networks are congested.
Source: FirstNet Authority

[FirstNet for Puerto Rico](#)
Situated in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico's size and location make it vulnerable to the threat of hurricanes and earthquakes. During the development of state deployment plans, our team worked hand-in-hand with Puerto Rico leaders to ensure the plan was customized to address their needs.
Source: FirstNet Authority

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.