



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: March 10, 2022



ICN is hiring!

[Telecommunications Sales Engineer](#)

(deadline March 14)

[Accounting Technician 2](#)

(deadline March 27)

3 cybersecurity companies to offer free protection to US hospitals & utilities amid concerns of hacking attacks



Cloudflare, CrowdStrike & Ping Identity say the offer is in response to security concerns raised by the federal government.

Source: Washington Post

Iowa Related

[Iowa Districts Get STEM Grants for Cyber, Industrial Tech](#)

Funds from the Governor's STEM Advisory Council will go toward cybersecurity and computer science programs at Waterloo Career Center, and industrial technology at Dike-New Hartford Community School District.

Source: Government Technology

Sector Related

Government

[Governors Tighten IT Cybersecurity Amid Ukraine Attacks](#)

A number of governors are calling on their states' IT departments to ensure critical infrastructure is protected.

Source: Route Fifty

[White House Moves to Identify 'Disadvantaged' Communities in Line for Federal Funding Boost](#)

The administration wants to steer more money to areas most in need and has released a draft of places that should get more help.

Source: RouteFifty

Healthcare

[Nation's 1st telehealth chair on changing culture](#)

Putting "devices into places where patients could get to has really been important and putting in that technology infrastructure to allow it to happen."

Source: Becker's Healthcare

[Morgantown, W.V., Hospital Data Breach Impacts 400K People](#)

Although Mon Health System indicates that it discovered a data breach in the middle of December, it learned of potential data theft about two weeks after the hack. Patients, employees and companies were affected.

Source: Government Technology

Education

[Counselors for Computing broadens student exposure to STEM](#)

The program trains counselors to encourage girls and other students underrepresented in computing to pursue tech careers or hobbies.

Source: K-12 Dive

[Georgia School District to Buy Gaming Desktops for Esports](#)

Glynn County Board of Education wants to use money from the CARES Act earmarked for STEM expenses to purchase devices and equipment for esports, an extracurricular activity involving competitive video gaming.

Source: Center for Digital Education

Public Safety

[Can 911 Staff Shortages Be Alleviated by AI Technology?](#)

As government call centers grapple with the nationwide staffing shortage and an influx in demand, some are implementing artificial intelligence tools to improve wait times and accessibility for callers.

Source: Governing

Cybersecurity

[A Refresher on Multifactor Authentication and Best Practices](#)

Multifactor authentication is a key part of zero-trust security, and a method promoted by the likes of CISA. It aims to block out hackers who — in this age of data breaches — manage to steal users' passwords.

Source: Governing

[Phishing Attacks Impersonating LinkedIn are up 232% in the Last Month Alone!](#)

During the period the world has dubbed "the great resignation", phishing scammers are shifting tactics to take advantage of those looking for a new career or place of employment on LinkedIn.

Source: KnowBe4

[Ukraine's Volunteer 'IT Army' Is Hacking in Uncharted Territory](#)

The country has enlisted thousands of cybersecurity professionals in the war effort against Russia.

Source: Wired

Digital Divide

[Report Outlines Broadband Fixes for State, Local Governments](#)

A new report from the NewDEAL Forum shows different ways that states and local areas can address the digital divide. The report examines approaches from Texas, California, Colorado and several other states. Source: Government Technology

Source: Government Technology

[Rural electric co-ops are the fastest growing group of broadband providers](#)

Co-ops were allowed to bid in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I auction in 2020 and came away with \$1.6 billion.

Source: Fierce Telecom

[Satellite Broadband Is Expanding. Can That Reduce the Digital Divide?](#)

Each satellite will offer more than one terabyte per second of total network output to allow educators & students across the country to connect “significantly” better.

Source: EdSurge

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.