



Connecticut's Defenses from Cybercrime Threats

October 9, 2018

Noting the efforts of the state to combat cyberattacks over the 5 years or more, Elin Swanson Katz and Jack Betkoski are hosting an all-day [Utility Infrastructure Security Conference](#) on October 15, 2018, (7am-5pm) in conjunction with [Upward Hartford](#), a 34,000 square feet co-working space in the Hartford, Connecticut [Stilts Building](#), an event uniquely designed to support startups, change-makers, and entrepreneurs where ideas and projects can be launched, and connections can be made. This cybersecurity event is for utility executives, state utility commissioners, and state utility consumer advocates, and focuses on utility cyber security, drones, and infrastructure technology.

For an in-depth study of this topic, visit https://www.ct.gov/occ/lib/occ/2018-1009_cybersecurity_in_connecticut_bv.docx to see a white paper by OCC's Broadband Policy Coordinator, Bill Vallee.

[OCC Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz](#) is the president of the [National Association of Utility Consumer Advocates \(NASUCA\)](#), composed of agencies designated by state law to act as independent ratepayer advocates while its sister association is the [National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners \(NARUC\)](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to representing the State public service utility regulatory commissions. In a timely coincidence, NARUC's president is longtime Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) vice chairman and commissioner, [Jack Betkoski](#).

[National Cyber Security Awareness Month \(NCSAM\)](#) is [observed every October](#), and 2018 marks the 15th year of National Cyber Security Awareness Month. NCSAM was created as a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure every American has the resources they need to stay safer and more secure online. Since its inception under leadership from the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) and the [National](#)

[Cyber Security Alliance \(NCSA\)](#), comprehension of the importance of Cyber Security Awareness has grown exponentially, reaching consumers, businesses of all sizes, educational institutions and community anchor institutions across the nation.

[A 2017 strategic plan](#) developed by Governor Malloy and many state agencies and officials (detailed below), discovered that about 2 billion external connection attempts by cyber hackers to tap into the 3.5 million agency records relating to residents are blocked per month by state perimeter security measures. In spite of these successful defensive efforts, the report said approximately 66 state and local systems are infected or compromised each month.

[Jim Hunt, an Eversource senior vice president for regulatory affairs, said](#) the electric company fights off over 300 million cyberattacks a year from hackers seeking to disrupt the system or obtain customer information. (bcummings@ctpost.com) "These threats are real," Hunt said. "We estimate we get a million knocks on the door from threats every day." Hunt said Eversource and the state's other utilities are addressing the threat even as hacking technology evolves and improves.

Art House, the state's first [Chief Cyber Security Risk Officer](#), has noted that [a successful attack on the state's water distribution system](#) would be perhaps the most devastating of public utility hacks since, while electric power seems the most disruptive, in fact humans cannot live longer than 72 hours without water.

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