



## **Technical Report**

NY Metro Joint Cyber Security Conference & Workshop Report Date: October 19 & 20  
Location: Microsoft's Tech Center, 11 Times Square, NYC

### **Introduction:**

The rapid digital transformation of modern society has led to an upsurge in cybersecurity threats and the consequent need for advanced protection mechanisms. This report provides a synthesized review of recent presentations, offering a panoramic view of the prevailing cybersecurity landscape.

### **Cybersecurity Fundamentals:**

Understanding the basics is crucial. This includes familiarizing oneself with terms such as malware, phishing, and firewalls, and grasping the significance of maintaining security hygiene through regular updates and strong password practices.

### **Deep Dive into Cyberattacks:**

Cyber threats are continually evolving. Ransomware, a prevalent threat, locks users out of their data, demanding payment for its release. Understanding these attacks and their motivations, whether financial or political, helps in devising counter-strategies.

### **The Cybersecurity Job Landscape:**

The industry's hiring trends reveal an emphasis on defense roles, indicating the significance of safeguarding digital assets. Roles like Security Analysts and DevSecOps dominate job postings. However, the hiring process remains fragmented due to unclear job descriptions, and the volatile nature of certain roles demands attention.

### **Hacker Tools & Techniques:**

Jay Ferron highlighted tools employed by cyber professionals. Key insights include the effectiveness of social engineering tactics using tools like the Social Engineering Tool Kit (SET) and the formidable power of Metasploit for network penetration.

### **Insider Threat Dynamics:**

Thomas Pike emphasized the convergence of non-cyber and cyber activities. Collaborations between internal and external actors, termed Insider-Outsider collusion, pose significant threats. Organizations should recognize potential risks, establish robust insider risk programs, and foster employee awareness.

### **The Security Black Hole in IT:**

Huxley Barbee spotlighted the unique security challenges in OT (Operational Technology) environments. A significant point of discussion was the Purdue Model, representing a layered security approach. Emphasis was also placed on safe scanning techniques and guiding principles for effective OT security.