The Middle East Institute's

SECOND ANNUAL CYBER CONFERENCE

The Middle East Institute (MEI) announces sponsorship opportunities for interested companies for its Second Annual Cyber Conference on June 9, 2021.

Join sponsors Microsoft, IBM, Owl Cyber Defense, Trusona, and a growing list of others for a conference investigating the radical changes that cyberspace has brought to regional society and interstate relations in the Middle East. New avenues for self-expression, surveillance, commerce, criminality, warfare, and political mobilization are all converging on societies in significant states of transition.

CYBER CONFERENCE 2020

Our inaugural Cyber Conference in 2020 was viewed by thousands live, and many more since over social media. The 2020 Conference brought together leading aerospace and defense Fortune 500 companies, venture capitalists, and US and foreign government officials. MEI's global reach presents excellent opportunities for sponsors to raise their company profile with an international audience of policymakers, military, intelligence, and private sector leaders. Sponsors can help shape discussions, reach key audiences and cooperate in follow-on activities such as joint publications, podcasts, and roundtable discussions.

MEI CYBER PROGRAM

Established in 2020, MEI's Cyber Program studies the intersection of technology, security and governance in the Middle East, with a particular focus on international security, foreign relations, privacy, and human security.

SPECIAL KEYNOTE: SENATOR MARK WARNER

Former Virginia governor and co-founder of the bipartisan Senate Cybersecurity Caucus

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP: CHRIS KUBECKA

Cyberwar and information security expert. Founder and CEO of HypaSec. Best known for rebuilding Saudi Aramco's network after the 2012 Shamoon attack.

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP: RICHARD A. CLARKE

MEI Chairman and 30-year veteran of the highest levels of US national security, with distinguished service in the Pentagon, State Department, and on the White House National Security Council.

THE PROGRAM

9:30 – 9:45am | *Opening Remarks*

> *Richard Clarke -* Chairman, MEI
> *Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) -* Co-founder, Senate Cybersecurity Caucus

10:00 – 10:50am | *Panel I: Democracy, Gender, and Expression Online: The State of Middle East Civil Society Today*

It has been a decade since the Arab Uprisings brought into sharper focus a series of burgeoning movements for democracy, transparency, and human rights throughout the Middle East. Social media played an essential role in facilitating the protests, catching political leaders off guard, and providing a more robust space for international attention to the voices and narratives of underrepresented and vulnerable groups in these movements, including women and the LGBTQ population. In response, many governments tightened their grips on cyberspace to tame the threat and neutralize opposition and expression, including through fake news laws, so-called immorality laws, internet shutdowns, surveillance, and artificial social media campaigns. This panel will reflect on these changes and explore what the contemporary state of civil society, gender equity, political organizing, and journalism in the Middle East, as well as what challenges and opportunities exist for the future.

> *Mona Elswah -* DPhil Candidate, Oxford Internet Institute
> *Marwa Fatafta -* MENA Policy Manager, AccessNow
> *Mehr Nadeem -* Reporting Fellow, Rest of the World
> *Sahar Khamis, Moderator -* Associate Professor, University of Maryland Department of Communication

11:00 – 11:50am | *Panel II: Cyber Warfare & Critical Infrastructure Security in the Middle East*

The hot, dry climate and arid landscape of the Middle East make it especially reliant on modern critical infrastructure operating on industrial control systems. In a notoriously volatile geopolitical environment with increasingly diffuse offensive cyber capabilities, the risk of tensions triggering a cyber-attack with fatalities is very real. This panel convenes a group of regional cyber specialists familiar with the risk to critical infrastructure to discuss the threat and how it can be contained technologically and politically.

> *Scott Coleman -* Director of Marketing and Product Management, Owl Cyber Defense
> *Naser Eldossary -* Principal Industrial Incident Responder, Dragos
> *Maya Horowitz -* Director of Threat Intelligence and Research, Check Point Software Technologies
> *Selena Larson (tentative) -* Senior Threat Intelligence Analyst, Proofpoint
> *Chris Kubecka, Moderator -* Cyber Program Distinguished Chair, MEI; CEO, HypaSec

12:00 – 12:50pm | *Fireside Chat*

> *Col. (ret) J. Carlos Vega -* Col. Vega is a cybersecurity professional with over three decades of leadership experience in building strategic cyber programs, in both the military and the private sector. Currently the Chief Information Security Officer at Devo, Vega was previously the co-founder and Director of Strategic Partnerships at West Point's Army Cyber Institute and an Executive Security Advisor to IBM.
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> *Jack Rhysider, Moderator -* Rhysider is a veteran security specialist with significant experience in security operations for Fortune 500 companies. He is the creator and producer of *Darknet Diaries*,

audio stories that capture, preserve, and explain the culture around hacking and cyber security in order to educate and entertain both technical and non-technical audiences.

1:00 – 1:50pm | *Panel III: Emerging Technologies*

The Middle East has grown into a burgeoning center of emerging technology, making major investments in artificial intelligence for digitization, intelligence, defense, and pushing the bounds of space technology and communications. Many nations recognize the need to diversify their economies in order to both achieve 2030 vision goals and improve services across the board for their citizens and residents. Mass digitization brings abundant benefits for the region, but also creates risks which require action, regulation, and planning, especially in the context of complex regional geopolitics that can affect privacy and security. This panel convenes industry experts to discuss the opportunities and risks associated with technological advancement in the region.

THE PROGRAM, CONT.

2:00 – 2:50pm | *Panel IV: Innovation Nations*

The Middle East has become an under-recognized hub of innovation and entrepreneurship. This trend has been accelerated by the shift to remote work amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and a surge in investment following recent intraregional diplomatic openings. From digital currencies and renewable energy to 5G and cloud-computing, the Middle East is quickly catching up to and often surpassing the technological advancement of Europe and North America. This panel assembles a group of entrepreneurs and 21st century businesspeople to discuss the modern regional business environment and its future.

Dina Sherif - *Executive Director, Legatum Center*
Mohammed Soliman, Moderator - *Nonresident Fellow, MEI*

3:00 – 3:50pm | *Fireside Chat*

RAdm. Mark Montgomery - Senior Director, Center on Cyber Technology and Innovation, Foundation for Defense of Democracies; Senior Advisor and former Executive Director, Cyberspace Solarium Commission. Previously, he served as Policy Director for the Senate Armed Services Committee, coordinating policy efforts on national defense strategy, capabilities and requirements, defense policy and cyber issues. Montgomery served for 32 years in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear trained surface warfare officer, retiring as a Rear Admiral in 2017. He also served as Director for Transnational Threats at the National Security Council from 1998-2000.

4:00 – 4:30pm | *Closing Keynote*

Keren Elazari (tentative) - Founder, Leading Cyber Ladies; Founder, BSidesTLV. Elazari is an internationally recognized security analyst, researcher, author, and speaker who works with leading security firms, government organizations, and Fortune 500 companies. She is currently a senior researcher at Tel Aviv University's Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Level	
PLATINUM **$50,000**	• logo featured largest in all conference materials; company recognized in email correspondence pre- & post-event; feature company or collaborative white paper in follow-on email; 30-minute keynote speaker spot; moderate or feature panelist on up to two panels; reception access
GOLD **$25,000**	• logo featured in all conference materials; company recognized in email correspondence pre- & post-event; 15-minute speaker spot; feature panelist on one panel; reception access
SILVER **$10,000**	• logo featured in all conference materials; company featured in email correspondence post-event; five-minute speaker spot; reception access
BRONZE **$5,000**	• logo featured in all conference materials; company featured in email correspondence post-event
SINGLE PANEL **$2,500**	• logo featured during the sponsored panel; company featured in email correspondence post-event