



Calvert County News

175 Main St., Prince Frederick, MD 20678 • 410-535-2003
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Contact: Sarah Ehman, Public Information Program Manager
410-535-2003 Sarah.Ehman@calvertcountymd.gov

Julie Yingling, Public Information Program Specialist
410-535-2003 Julie.Yingling@calvertcountymd.gov

Southern Maryland Cyber Summit Launches in Calvert County, Sets Stage for Future Summits Statewide

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – June 24, 2024 – The inaugural Southern Maryland Cyber Summit kicked off June 20 in Calvert County, setting the stage for an annual event to be hosted around the state. Organized by ePlus and hosted by Calvert County Government at the College of Southern Maryland Prince Frederick campus, the one-day summit brought together cybersecurity leaders from various sectors for a day of collaboration, discussions and insights on the latest cybersecurity trends and the impacts of artificial intelligence (AI).

Hosting the Southern Maryland Cyber Summit underscores the importance Calvert County Government places on cybersecurity and collaboration among local leaders and experts. By bringing together leaders from various sectors, the county aims to enhance cybersecurity resilience and foster innovation. Such initiatives are crucial for the local community as they help protect critical infrastructure, safeguard personal and organizational data, and promote economic growth through the development of a secure digital environment.

“Calvert County Government is proud to have hosted this significant event and looks forward to the continued success of the Southern Maryland Cyber Summit as it evolves and expands to other locations across the state,” said Technology Services Director Stephen Pereira. “The collaboration and discussions initiated today are crucial for strengthening cybersecurity strategies and embracing the future of AI in protecting our digital infrastructure.”

The summit featured a fireside chat with Maryland State Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Greg Rogers and Calvert County Technology Services Deputy Director and

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CISO Kathryn Poff. Their discussion focused on cybersecurity strategies and challenges at both the state and local levels.

Another highlight of the event was a discussion on the future of AI and cybersecurity, featuring Oki Mek, CISO for Microsoft Federal and Civilian, and Tim Gilday, senior director of emerging technology at GDIT. They explored how emerging technologies are shaping the cybersecurity landscape.

Panel discussions highlighted local government cooperation and security trends in AI, with experts from various counties and academic institutions contributing their insights. The keynote address by Matthew Radolec from Varonis, titled “Preventing Your First AI Breach,” drew significant attention and praise from attendees.

Panelists included:

- Stephen Pereira, Calvert County CIO
- George Jenkins, Charles County CISO
- TJ Mayotte, Howard County CIO
- Mark Van Pelt, UMES CIO
- Gene Ikner, Cecil County CISO
- Chris Houseknecht, Comptroller of Maryland CISO
- Mark Ripper, Carroll County CIO

The event was attended by executives, senior IT and cybersecurity professionals, as well as representatives from government and education sectors. The summit provided a valuable platform for networking and knowledge sharing among industry leaders and peers.

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