

Cyber (In)Security

Issue #207 · 4 August 2026

The fortnightly newsletter of the Cybersecurity Advisors Network (CyAN)

From the CyAN Community



Governing Security When the CISO Advises but Doesn't Command

White paper by Kamran Israr Mirza (Kim) · 27 July 2026

Who actually owns the risk register when the SOC reports to the CTO and the CISO is "advisory only"? Kamran Israr Mirza examines this governance gap — where accountability for security decisions blurs once the CISO holds influence but not authority — and what boards and executives should do about it. [Read on the CyAN site.](#)

CyAN Announcements



Our partner Black is Ethical is now registered in Côte d'Ivoire

4 August 2026

CyAN congratulates its partner organisation **Black is Ethical** on its official registration as a foundation in Côte d'Ivoire — a milestone in building durable digital trust "written by those who live it." Special credit to CyAN board member [Inssata Diomande-Ricourt](#) for driving the initiative.

Policy Corner

CyAN signs the Protect.ngo / ICSC call to protect civil society organisations

4 August 2026

CyAN has added its signature to the [Protect.ngo](#) / International Civil Society Centre open letter calling for enhanced cyber capacities and digital resilience for civil society organisations, which warns of a narrow window to prepare civil society for the next generation of cyber threats. [Read CyAN's statement.](#)

White Hat CVE of the Week

Courtesy of White Hat IT Security, led by CyAN member Sándor Féher



Week 30 — CVE-2026-48294 ("HermeticReader")

"A PDF Extension with a WhatsApp Obsession"

A universal cross-site scripting (UXSS) flaw in the Adobe Acrobat PDF Chrome extension (v26.5.2.2 and earlier, ~314M users), CVSS 8.2. With minimal user interaction, a malicious page can bypass same-origin protections to read a victim's WhatsApp Web data — chat lists, contacts, message previews and conversation text. [Full summary on the CyAN site.](#)

Week 31 — CVE-2026-54121 ("CertiGhost")

31 July 2026

A critical flaw in Microsoft Active Directory Certificate Services (AD CS): a low-privileged, authenticated domain user can obtain a certificate for a Domain Controller, potentially enabling full Active Directory compromise via certificate-based authentication. [Full summary on the CyAN site.](#)

News from Around the World

Water utilities hit across seven US states. The FBI warned of a "significant escalation" in attacks on internet-exposed PLCs at water and wastewater systems — with 30+ Minnesota municipalities among the targets and Iran-linked actors suspected. ([CNN](#))

Autonomous AI-agent cyberattacks. Palo Alto Networks' Unit 42 detailed a Chinese-speaking actor using a DeepSeek-powered "Hermes" agent to autonomously select public exploits and attempt attacks on 460+ internet-facing targets after a single Telegram prompt. ([Unit 42](#))

Bank of Baroda confirms a cyber incident. India's Bank of Baroda acknowledged a cybersecurity incident after criminals claimed the theft of roughly 1TB of customer data offered on the dark web. ([The Record](#))

EU unveils a Cybersecurity & AI Action Plan. The European Commission set out measures to counter AI-driven threats and coordinate resilience across member states (announced 9 July). ([Alwire](#))

Are you a CyAN member? Tag [@Cybersecurity Advisors Network \(CyAN\)](#) in your LinkedIn posts to be featured here. Member tags land in *Tagged by Our Members*; everyone else in *Partners & Community*.

Tagged by Our Members



Bharat Raigangar — Sovereign Cloud & AI, CSA EMEA

[Bharat Raigangar](#) · CyAN member

Bharat presented at the Cloud Security Alliance EMEA "Sovereign Cloud and Artificial Intelligence" conference, exploring sovereignty and AI in enterprise cloud.

Also from our members: Bharat is speaking at **CyberX UAE 2026** (10 September 2026).



Subela Bhatia — cyber for the next generation

[Subela Bhatia](#) · CyAN member

Subela addressed a Gen Z audience on cybersecurity in higher education, on building the pipeline of future practitioners.



Kim Chandler McDonald — civil society resilience

[Kim Chandler McDonald](#) · CyAN board member

Kim shared Protect.ngo's "Racing the Cyber Clock" on the narrow window to build digital resilience across civil society organisations.



Jean-Christophe Le Toquin — Trust & Safety Festival

[Jean-Christophe Le Toquin](#) · CyAN board member

J-C highlighted the first Australian edition of the Trust & Safety Festival, 8–9 October in Sydney (see [Upcoming Events](#)).

Partners & Community

Black is Ethical Foundation

Newly registered in Côte d'Ivoire, the Black is Ethical Foundation works on ethical hacking, cybercrime awareness and AI — "what if cybersecurity were finally written by those who live it?"

Member Spotlight



Ned Farhat

Cybersecurity / Forensic Investigator & Expert Witness · CyberSage Pty Ltd · Greater Sydney, Australia

Ned Farhat is a digital forensics and cybersecurity specialist who serves as an expert witness and founder of CyberSage. His work bridges incident investigation and the courtroom — translating technical evidence into findings that stand up to legal scrutiny.

[Connect with Ned on LinkedIn.](#)

Upcoming Events

Trust & Safety Festival Sydney 2026

8–9 October 2026 · Pullman Sydney Hyde Park · CyAN is a key partner

The first Australian edition of the Trust & Safety Festival brings together people working across online safety, trust and security, following a Welcome Reception. [Event details.](#)

Ai Everything Abu Dhabi

6 October 2026 · Abu Dhabi · CyAN is Knowledge Partner

A global gathering for AI infrastructure and sovereign AI, convening 150+ fast-growing AI companies and decision-makers across finance, government, energy, healthcare and manufacturing. [Event details.](#)

About CyAN

The Cybersecurity Advisors Network (CyAN) is a global, member-driven non-profit connecting cybersecurity professionals, advisors and organisations to raise the standard of digital trust and security worldwide.

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