



Elevate Your Impact: Join the NTSC

The NTSC is focused on strengthening the voice of the CISO, advancing cybersecurity, and positively impacting the future of security. Our vision is to help security executives shape and influence national cybersecurity policy by enabling them to become trusted partners and go-to resources for policymakers. This white paper explores our vision, who we are, what we do, why you should care, and what we have planned for the future.



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[Foreword]



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NTSC Board Chair and SVP/CISO at Aflac

Over the past several years, we have witnessed shifts in the regulatory landscape and legal actions that could potentially hinder the role of the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). These challenges underscore the critical importance of having a dynamic National Technology Security Coalition (NTSC) that can effectively address and influence these pressing concerns.

Since our founding, NTSC has come a long way. We began with seven founding board members, all CISOs from across the nation, and have since grown steadily toward our goal of 60 board members. We've also been fortunate to establish strong partnerships with national underwriters, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in helping us achieve our mission. Today, with the combined strength of our partnerships and policy and advisory councils, NTSC boasts a robust body of over 100 dedicated members.

Our reputation has grown significantly. The fact that public policymakers, members of Congress, and their staff actively reach out to engage with us speaks volumes about our influence. There is still much work ahead. We must stay engaged in key areas like federal privacy and data protection legislation, the Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act (CIRCIA), and the emerging congressional framework around artificial intelligence. It's essential that our members, partners, and supporters understand the complexities of these issues and contribute to our advocacy for practical and effective policies. With our board comprising some of the brightest minds in the field and NTSC's respected reputation, we are well-positioned to drive meaningful change.

NTSC remains committed to advancing cybersecurity workforce development, championing both public and private initiatives to create diverse pathways into the field. We recognize the value of vocational training, community colleges, and traditional university programs, and we are working closely with these institutions to open opportunities in rural and underserved communities. This effort is not just about cybersecurity—it's about fostering economic opportunity in areas that need it most, and NTSC is proud to play a role in this important work.

There is also an emerging effort to harmonize cyber and artificial intelligence regulations domestically and internationally. This area is very important for organizations and the CISOs that lead this area. Over-regulation and, in some cases, conflicting regulations distract from our ability to focus on protecting our customers, citizens, companies, and nation. NTSC has the opportunity to work with our partners and policymakers to lead the charge.

As the NTSC Board Chair, it has been my privilege to work with the finest security professionals from the private and public sectors. These outstanding security leaders have enabled us to realize our vision of being the preeminent "voice of the CISO" in Washington, D. C.



[Table of Contents]

01. Our vision 04

- The Evolution of the CISO 04
- CISOs and Public Policy 04
- The CISO's Voice in Public Policy 05

02. Who we are 06

- Distinguished membership 06
- Politically agnostic 06
- Operate with purpose 07

03. What we do 08

- Advocate for CISOs 08
- Shape Policy 08
- Foster collaboration 09
- Drive industry dialogue 09

04. Why you should care 10

- We share insight 10
- We fight for what matters most 10
- We shape policy 10
- We unify people 11

05. What we have planned 12

06. In closing 13

[01. Our Vision]

Topics discussed in this section

- **The evolution of the CISO:** The CISO role has evolved from a technical position to a strategic leadership role.
- **CISOs and public policy:** By engaging with policymakers, CISOs can ensure that regulations are practical, effective, and aligned with real-world security challenges.
- **The CISO's voice in public policy:** We empower CISOs to guarantee their voice is heard in shaping the future of digital security.

To help security executives shape and influence national cybersecurity policy by enabling them to become trusted partners and go-to resources for policymakers.

The evolution of the CISO

A CISO is the senior-level security executive within an organization responsible for establishing and maintaining the enterprise's cybersecurity vision, strategy, and program to ensure information assets and technologies are adequately protected. While in the past, the role was instead narrowly defined along those lines, nowadays, the title is often used interchangeably with chief security officer (CSO) and VP of Security, which indicates a more expansive role in the organization.

Moreover, CISOs increasingly report outside information technology (IT) to their company's CEO, General Counsel, or Board of Directors. This is a significant shift over the past five years, reflecting how cybersecurity has become a global issue of importance to businesses and the government. In the US, severe cyber threats have established cybersecurity as a critical national security issue and an economic issue that CISOs confront daily.

CISOs and public policy

While CISOs have become more prominent within their businesses, that prominence hasn't necessarily translated to public policy. At any given time, the federal government and state governments draft legislation, enact laws, and promulgate regulations that affect business. Traditionally, CISOs have not had much input into this process, even though they are primarily responsible for implementing these cybersecurity laws and regulations.





When lawmakers and regulators enact laws and regulations without CISO input, CISOs might find those requirements overly burdensome or difficult to implement. In many cases, the objective of a law or regulation could have been achieved with language more aligned with the reality of the threat landscape, as seen by practitioners and those on the digital frontlines. By working with CISOs, lawmakers and regulators can gain greater clarity and use precise language (informed by CISOs), resulting in far better laws and regulations.

The CISO's voice in public policy

The NTSC was formed in January 2016 by the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) to create a preeminent advocacy voice for CISOs in Washington, D.C. At the NTSC, we believe CISOs must become more involved in public policy. Our organization offers CISOs and other security executives a national platform to discuss important cybersecurity policy issues and generate insightful input to help positively influence public policy at its early draft stages. Currently, the NTSC advocates for specific policy priorities in Washington, D.C., and CISO members regularly communicate with lawmakers and regulators.

The NTSC is committed to ensuring the CISO's voice is heard. Our vision is to help shape and

influence national cybersecurity policy by enabling our members to become trusted partners and go-to resources for policymakers. In our sixth year, we've made significant progress toward that goal; many policymakers now reach out to us as they draft laws, regulations, and policies.

We see high demand for an organization like ours, suggesting the CISO's voice is both needed and welcome. With a broad membership of CISOs across many industries and companies, we approach important cybersecurity policy issues with a nonpartisan, industry-agnostic, holistic, and practical viewpoint.

This whitepaper will examine why the CISO's voice matters in Washington, D.C., and beyond.



[02. Who we are]

Topics discussed in this section

- **Distinguished membership:** We are a national coalition of distinguished senior technology security executives.
- **Nonpartisan:** We are a non-profit that operates independently of any political party or agenda.
- **Operate with purpose:** We want to enhance the CISO's role, safeguard the profession, and strengthen the national cybersecurity posture.

The NTSC is a nonpartisan organization uniting leading CISOs and security executives across the United States. We bridge the gap between the public and private sectors, fostering collaboration and driving informed cybersecurity policy. Our mission is to empower CISOs, safeguard the profession, and strengthen the nation's overall security posture.

Distinguished membership

Our membership comprises leading senior technology security executives from the world's most influential organizations. We have distinguished CISOs, Chief Technology Officers (CTO), Chief Risk Officers, and Chief Privacy Officers from Fortune 1000 companies. We bring them together to share experiences, expertise, and ideas as they collaborate on issues of national importance to the CISO.

You can get a better idea of our membership by reviewing our Board of Directors: <https://www.ntsc.org/leadership/board-of-directors/>

Nonpartisan

We view cybersecurity objectively as a nonprofit operating independently of any political party or agenda. Our cybersecurity positions are intended to inform, educate, and influence critical cybersecurity matters. We remain free from industry influence and market forces, and in Washington, we work across the aisle to build bipartisan support.

Our early bipartisan supporters included:

- U.S. Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX), Chairman Emeritus of the House Committee on Homeland Security and Co-chair of the House Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus.
- U.S. Representative John Katko (R-NY) a former Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security.
- U.S. Representative Jim Langevin (D-RI), a former Co-Chair of the House Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus.
- U.S. Senator David Perdue, a former member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- Rear Admiral (Ret.) Mark Montgomery, Senior Director of the Center on Cyber and Technology Innovation and Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

With bipartisan support, the NTSC fueled the introduction of the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee Authorization Act, which was included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021. This committee, under the leadership of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a security agency the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), provides counsel and advice to the Director of CISA and the Secretary of DHS on cybersecurity policy and rulemaking.

The NTSC is committed to ensuring the CISO's voice is heard. We are dedicated to ensuring CISOs have a prominent voice in the discussion at the highest levels of government. We do so because the CISO's role is essential to ensure organizations' security spanning the private and public sectors. If those organizations operate securely and safely, the entire landscape is secure as those organizations make up the US economy - the largest economy¹ in the world.

Operate with purpose

We are the greatest champion of initiatives that enhance the CISO's role, safeguard the profession, and strengthen the national cybersecurity posture.



[03. What we do]

Topics discussed in this section

- **Advocate for CISOs:** We have spoken on behalf of CISOs and elevated their voice.
- **Shape policy:** We actively contribute to developing cybersecurity laws and regulations.
- **Foster collaboration:** We unite the public and private sectors to address critical cybersecurity challenges.
- **Drive industry dialogue:** We organize timely events to advance cybersecurity discussions.

As an advocate for CISOs and security executives, we amplify their voices and expertise in shaping cybersecurity policy. Our collaborative approach fosters dialogue between the public and private sectors, ensuring cybersecurity laws and regulations are grounded in real-world experience. Through our events, we bring together industry leaders to drive innovation and advance the field of cybersecurity.

Advocate for CISOs

Cybersecurity has been a matter of national security for decades. Yet, when lawmakers draft legislation and regulations to address these issues, they rarely engage with CISOs. Initially, we spoke on behalf of CISOs, but as time passed, we have taken steps to connect CISOs to policymakers. We have shown legislators the value of the CISO's role, their impact on the state of cybersecurity, and how they are uniquely positioned to aid legislators in crafting cybersecurity legislation.

This is critical to ensure lawmakers see the CISO's value, as CISOs are vital in helping them be well-informed as they craft federal legislation and shape policy.

Shape policy

Until recently, the CISO's voice has been relatively unheard on Capitol Hill. Policymakers hear primarily from industry groups, lobbyists, privacy advocates, influential businesses, and Silicon Valley tech companies. These groups should play some role in the national dialogue about cybersecurity legislation, but hearing from only them gives policymakers a limited and subjective grasp of cybersecurity. Our efforts have changed that.

We bridge the gap between cybersecurity leaders and policymakers to ensure policymakers hear from security practitioners in the trenches. We have shown lawmakers that cybersecurity spans all industries and branches of government and that CISOs can connect the dots to ensure that legislation, regulations, and policies get drafted practically. CISOs should inform policymakers how legislation and regulations will impact businesses and consumers. We also help guide policymakers by simply sharing and lending our expertise and, when needed, connecting them with others well-versed in cybersecurity.

Foster collaboration

The best opportunity for legislation to succeed occurs when the public and private sectors are aligned. We continue to connect legislators with CISOs, which helps foster that collaboration to help lawmakers and regulators talk to the cybersecurity professionals who are best united to address critical challenges.

We also continue to expand our relationship with CISA by increasing CISA participation at NTSC events and conferences, publicly supporting the National Risk Management Center, and endorsing key initiatives, including “Secure by Design,” “Secure Our World,” and “Shields Up.”

The NTSC engages in monthly meetings with CISA to discuss issues ranging from the cyber workforce challenges to artificial intelligence. These monthly meetings are designed to exchange information providing the NTSC an opportunity to provide our members’ perspectives on critical issues facing the cyber community and to provide CISA with an opportunity to point out areas where the cyber community can be more helpful.

We also regularly engage the Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD). In 2024, we hosted briefing sessions to discuss harmonizing cyber legislation, the cyber insurance market, cyber workforce development, and the need for a federal privacy mandate. ONCD, in return, provides insight into the National Cybersecurity Strategy Implementation plan and other issues that are of interest to our members.

A dedicated agency with a clear mission, such as CISA, helps DHS carry out this vital work.

Drive industry dialogue

We drive and organize timely events to foster cybersecurity discussions.

In 2024, we organized a combination of in-person and virtual webinars, including regional roundtables in Washington, D.C., New York City, NY, and St. Louis, Missouri. We hosted our 7th

Annual National CISO Policy Conference, where we brought together the top minds in cybersecurity to discuss pressing issues and future strategies². The conference featured National Cyber Director Harry Coker; Co-Founder and Chairman of Silverado Policy Accelerator and author Dmitri Alperovitch; Dr. Timothy Maurer, Senior Director of Global Cybersecurity Policy, Microsoft Corporation; Jamil Farshchi, Executive Vice President, CTO and CISO at Equifax.

We hosted virtual webinars with Rear Admiral (Ret.) Mark Montgomery, Senior Director of the Center on Cyber and Technology Innovation and Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and Lisa Einstein, Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer at CISA.

Our events bring the key players in cybersecurity together to share, debate, and pioneer new ways forward. We want to invoke thoughtful discussions to ensure our events are meaningful and productive.



[04. Why you should care]

Topics discussed in this section

- **We share insight:** We promote collaboration between the government and industry.
- **We fight for what matters most:** We are at the forefront of bringing the issues that matter to the attention of the leaders that shape cyber policy and legislation.
- **We shape policy:** We shape legislation to protect critical infrastructure, data, and end users.
- **We unify people:** We bring together the top minds in the industry to share timely information and best practices.

As a bridge between government and industry, we foster collaboration and share insights with the leaders that shape cyber policy and legislation to enhance cybersecurity nationwide. In doing this, we advocate for policies that protect critical infrastructure, data, and end users. We are committed to continuing to unify industry leaders and facilitating knowledge exchange to solve evolving cyber threats timely. We invite you to join us!

We share insight

If you are a CISO or security executive who feels you could impact national cybersecurity policy, we can give you a voice. We'll bring you into discussions with elected officials, policymakers, and staff to help them make critical cybersecurity policy, regulation, and legislation decisions. We firmly believe that you are the way to help secure our collective safety in cybersecurity, which is why we need you to join us to help lawmakers and regulators understand what you see; what you see and do matters.

We fight for what matters most

If you want to work with the highest levels of government to drive change on cybersecurity issues that matter, we can help. We work with key members of Congress to help influence cybersecurity legislation on national security and infrastructure. We also work with other branches of government to guide and inform them. We need you to help us guide these vital decision-makers in making informed decisions on matters of national importance.

We shape policy

Do you want to shape legislation to protect critical infrastructure, data, and the people affected by it all: the rest of us, the end users? If so, we can help. We have assisted in getting several policies in front of Congressional members. They include policies to help obtain cyber legislation harmonization, enact a national privacy mandate, and improve cyber threat intelligence sharing.



All of these efforts have been a collaboration between us, lawmakers (and their staff), and our constituents (CISOs and security executives). Our deep connections allow us to influence policy and drive change.

We unify people

If you have the drive and determination but don't know where to start or who to talk to, we are here to connect you with the people making an impact. We bring the industry's finest security minds (CISOs and senior security executives), lawmakers, and regulators to discuss matters of national importance. We can do this because we have spent years building connections in the public and private sectors.

You might be thinking, "That sounds great. But what do you have up your sleeves for the future?" I am glad you asked!



[05. What we have planned]

We envision a future where cybersecurity is a top priority. We have carefully crafted a series of initiatives that are essential for strengthening our nation's security posture; they include:

- Supporting initiatives to harmonize federal cyber regulatory policy and legislation
- Securing the software supply chain
- Establishing a CISO safe harbor
- Advocating for a holistic strategy to protect the nation's critical infrastructure
- Establishing legislative guardrails on artificial intelligence

By championing these initiatives, we strive to create a future where cybersecurity is a top priority for individuals, organizations, and governments. We are committed to working with policymakers, industry leaders, and cybersecurity professionals to build a more secure digital world.



[06. In closing]



Patrick Gaul
Executive Director of the NTSC

Whether advocating for cyber regulatory harmonization, securing the software supply chain, ensuring our critical infrastructure is guarded against foreign adversaries, or safeguarding artificial intelligence, the NTSC will continue to advance these conversations by strengthening our relationships with the appropriate stakeholders in Washington, D.C.

For anyone considering getting involved with the NTSC, our message is simple but urgent. Your voice matters, and the most direct way to communicate your perspective on the critical issues facing the nation and our economy is to become a member of the NTSC. As the legendary UNC basketball coach Dean Smith once said, “There is a point in every contest when sitting on the sidelines is not an option.”

The National Technology Security Coalition (NTSC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that serves as the preeminent advocacy voice for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) across the United States. Through dialogue, education, and government relations, we unite both public and private sector stakeholders around policies that improve national cybersecurity standards and awareness.

Want to get involved?

For more information on how to join or work with the NTSC, please contact Patrick Gaul, Executive Director of the NTSC, at patrick@ntsc.org.

Endnotes

¹ Dotdash Meredith. (2023). *The Top 25 Economies in the World*. Investopedia.com. <https://www.investopedia.com/insights/worlds-top-economies/>

² Anaya, M. (2024). *Navigating the Future of Cybersecurity: Insights from the NTSC Conference*. NTSC.org. <https://www.ntsc.org/resources/ntsc-blog/navigating-the-future-of-cybersecurity.html>



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