

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

October 17, 2024

Attendance: Mark Johnson, Jim Stewart, Troy Jessup, Jenn Gibbs, Lynne Yocom, Jonathan Karras, Jeff Egly, Rick Gaisford, Spencer Jenkins, Dave Long, Jeremy Cox

Welcome

FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Status

- UETN's aggressive approach is due to the program details from the FCC.
- The application window closes in the first half of November.
- The pilot is for all e-rate eligible entities to apply for cybersecurity tools and services under a 200 million dollar budget for the whole country.
- Conversations have been started with several key e-rate stakeholders around the state.
- Presented this in various meetings throughout the state to inform education entities about the pilot.
- Allows UETN to file as a consortium to procure and implement cybersecurity tools.
 - Based on needs, UETN would file a consortium request on behalf of any participating entities.
 - Plan to purchase a managed detection and response capability, either implemented by UETN or administered at the UETN level, like content filtering.
- Entities need to sign letters of authorization to join the consortium or allow UETN to file on their behalf.
- **Funding:**
 - Maximum funding for this program is five million dollars.
 - Concerns about the program:
 - It's a three-year pilot with no clear understanding of the funding model post-pilot.
 - FCC and USAC are evaluating the program's viability and effectiveness.
 - The program could highlight the need but may face a fiscal cliff if it doesn't continue after three years.
 - The success of the pilot might help secure ongoing funding.
- **Personnel and Support:**
 - Concerns about UETN's ability to support a cybersecurity division.
 - Small rural education entities may struggle with the personnel and cost of the tools.
 - A managed detection and response approach could alleviate some burdens:
 - UETN provides Tier-1 support and configuration assistance.
 - The majority of implementation costs and resources fall to the education entities.
- **Managed Detection Response:**
 - A critical tool for detecting cybersecurity threats.
 - Grant does not allow for hiring additional staff.

CompuNet Security Interview Status

- ARPA-funded project awarded to CompuNet.
- UETN requests all education entities to participate in a security capability assessment/study.
- Goal: categorize and understand security needs in Utah's education sector.
- Helps UETN advocate for specific funding resources.
- **Assessment Phases:**
 - Phase 1: Online questionnaire.
 - Phase 2: Interviews to validate results and ensure data consistency.
 - Deliverable: Executive summary.
- **Summary Reports:**
 - The state of Utah will receive reports breaking down major educational differences.
 - Each institution gets an individual summary report.
 - Project completion: End of January 2025.
 - Weekly status updates.
- **Interviews:**
 - ~76 interviews, ~2 hours each.

- Managed by CompuNet.
- Some education entities are hesitant to participate.

SAINTCON – What to Expect This Year

- The conference is sold out: 1850 tickets.
- Topics: Education needs and cybersecurity.
- First year including an organization for social engineering.

Developments in AI – Discussion

- Look at the University of Utah’s Responsible AI Initiative.

Service Catalog – As Time Permits

Other Committee Member Interests – As Time Permits

- Fiber plants and standards.

Adjourn