

## INSIGHTS

### [Gray Areas of Technology](#)

**Kathy Vogler**, Expedient Technology Solutions

### [The 7 Technology Trends I'd Like to See in 2022 \(and Why They Aren't Impossible\)](#)

**Mardi Humphreys**, Integration Edge

## NEWS

### [TechCred Applications OPEN through January 31st - Upskill your Workforce!](#)

State of Ohio

## TECH CAREERS

Looking for your next adventure?

View our [Tech Careers page](#)

Post your open positions or check out opportunities!

New postings:

- [Fiber Account Executive](#)
- [Talent Acquisition Specialist](#)
- [Java Full Stack](#)
- [Business Intelligence Analyst](#)
- [Database Engineer](#)

and 10+ other opportunities still open!

## MEMBERSHIP

### **Welcome New Partner!**

Independents Fiber Network is an Ohio-based internet service provider that brings high-performance, high-capacity, Ethernet-over-fiber and point to point wide area network solutions to your company's doorstep.



## Optimize Your Organization's Security Spend

**Scott McCollum**, CIO, Sinclair Community College  
Chair, Board of Directors, Technology First

Every IT organization has their "table stakes" products for providing security over their infrastructure. These are the products such as anti-virus, firewalls, and mail scanning gateways that have become ubiquitous and a part of every IT department's budget. Beyond these common products there are other, more capable products that are implemented in order to address other risks that the organization feels are in need of mitigation. In addition to this inventory of products that have been implemented, I don't think I'd be going out on a limb to say that every organization, regardless of size or the number of products that are used, has a list of products that they feel would improve their security posture. If this truly is the case, then how do organizations ensure that the products on their "wish list" address their most important vulnerabilities, and how do they get approval for increasing their spend for yet another product to eliminate their remaining vulnerabilities?

Sorry if you thought I had the answer to this most important question. Unfortunately, the number of vulnerabilities in an organization's infrastructure are numerous and caused by many different factors. Some are due to bugs in the particular software that the organization uses, some are caused by flawed operational procedures of departmental users, and some are due to misconfiguration of systems. My point is that these issues will always exist and we can't expect our budgets to continually grow to add more security products. In addition to the vastness of areas where vulnerabilities exist, we are faced with ever-tightening budgets that were already hard to justify increases in prior to the world-wide pandemic that has increased technology support costs while decreasing revenues.

While we can't eliminate all vulnerabilities, we must identify those vulnerabilities that pose the greatest risk for the organization and focus on these areas for process improvements and technology acquisition. In some cases this means repurposing of our resources, due to the lack of being able to justify additional funding. This repurposing can manifest itself in many ways.

>> [Read more](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

### **19th annual Ohio Information Security Conference**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**  
**Sinclair College, Dayton, OH**

1 day  
2 Keynotes  
20+ Sessions  
300+ Professionals  
[LEARN MORE](#)

Featuring Opening Keynote:

### **Cybersecurity Briefing: 2022 State of the Threat**

Terry McGraw, Senior Executive Consultant,  
IT Security, Dell Secureworks

This briefing lays out Secureworks Threat Researchers and Incident Responders' view of the significant developments in the threat landscape over the past year. Unsurprisingly, post-intrusion ransomware features extensively, as it remains the most significant threat facing business.

## EVENTS

[Tech First Events](#)

**Infrastructure/Cloud** (virtual)  
[The 84.51° Cloud Transformation](#)  
Fri, Jan 14, 2022 | 9-10am

**Tech Forum** (in-person)  
[Annual CIO Forecast Panel](#)  
Featuring:

Shawn Ashcraft, Midmark  
Showkat Choudhury, Central State  
Chris Schrameck, Winsupply

Sponsored by: [Expedient](#)  
Thurs, Jan. 20, 2022 | 11:30am

**Data Analytics** (virtual)  
[Data-driven Customer Experiences](#)  
Fri, Jan. 21, 2021 | 8:30-10am

**Women 4 Technology** (in-person)  
[Productivity Killers \(& Solutions\)](#)  
Wed, Jan. 26, 2021 | 8:30-10am

...and just around the corner

**Digital Mixer** (in-person)  
[Student and Company Registration OPEN!](#)

**Looking to hire local talent?**  
**Hundreds of students are eager to talk to you - join us!**  
Wed, Feb. 16, 2022 | 4-6pm

**19th annual Ohio Information Security Conference**  
[Agenda Information and Registration](#)  
Wed, Mar. 9, 2022 | 7:30am-5pm

[Community Events](#)

THANK YOU PARTNERS



AHEAD CareSource

