SYMPOSIUM ON CYBERSECURITY & DIGITAL IDENTITY FOR AFRICA

November 21-22, 2024

Al Akhawayn University, IFRANE, MOROCCO

The **Symposium on Cybersecurity & Digital Identity for Africa**, scheduled for **November 21-22, 2024**, is a two-day event that addresses the key cybersecurity challenges and advances digital identity solutions in Africa. Organized by the Upanzi Network in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University Africa, Al Akhawayn University, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and the University of Botswana, the symposium will bring together over 100 experts and stakeholders from academia, government, NGOs, and the private sector.

This event will provide a platform for cross-sector collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building to improve cybersecurity and digital identity frameworks across Africa. The agenda will cover critical topics such as cybersecurity education, regulatory frameworks, information security management standards, and the role of digital identity in governance.

The Symposium on Cybersecurity & Digital Identity for Africa aims to achieve the following:

Awareness: To discuss the current state of cybersecurity in Africa and its challenges, focusing on building resilient cybersecurity infrastructures

Digital Identity Initiatives: To explore existing digital identity initiatives in Africa, including their role in digital transformation and e-governance

Capacity Building: To identify strategies for enhancing cybersecurity capacity, particularly in academia, government, and the private sector

Collaboration: To facilitate partnerships between universities, governmental bodies, and private organizations, driving cybersecurity innovations and educational programs

Practical Applications: To promote practical implementations of cybersecurity frameworks and digital identity solutions tailored to the African context

SCOPE & OUTCOMES

The symposium will feature a comprehensive range of activities designed to foster learning, networking, and collaboration among participants through *expert presentations, panel discussions, group workshops, hackathons and competitions, networking opportunities.*

The expected outcomes of the Symposium include:

Increased Cybersecurity Initiative awareness: A more skilled and informed cybersecurity workforce within Africa, equipped with the knowledge to address emerging threats

Possible collaborations and Partnerships: Establishment of long-term collaborations between key stakeholders such as academic institutions, government bodies, and private companies

Increased Digital Identity initiative awareness: Increased implementation of secure digital identity solutions that support e-governance and the digital economy

Policy Recommendations: Strategic policy recommendations on cybersecurity regulations and risk management that African governments and institutions can adopt

Showcased Innovations: Recognition of innovative cybersecurity and digital identity solutions developed by African students and institutions

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Security and Privacy Institute

AGENDA OVERVIEW

DAY 1 – THURSDAY
November 21st, 2024

8:15 – 9:00	Arrival and registration, badge collection, welcome coffee, and refreshments
9:00 – 9:30	Opening remarks by Al Akhawayn University and government representatives, and an introduction of the CMU-Africa/Upanzi Network partnership.
9:30 – 10:30	Presentations on cybersecurity initiatives from various institutions, including CyLab-Africa and Al Akhawayn University.
10:30 – 11:00	Networking tea break.
11:00 – 1:00	Panel discussions and group work on cybersecurity capacity building, laws, and regulations in Africa
13:00 – 14:00	Networking lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Discussion on digital identity as a catalyst for e-governance and cybersecurity
16:00 – 16:30	Recommendations and closing remarks.
17:00 – 19:00	Cocktail and networking session.

DAY 2 – FRIDAY
November 22nd, 2024

8:30 – 9:00	Arrival and registration
9:00 – 9:30	Presentations by Al Akhawayn University, University of Botswana, and Wits University on their Upanzi Node initiatives
9:30 – 9:45	Quick tea break
9:45 –10:45	Presentation on cybersecurity and privacy from universities and government Sector
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	*Track 1*: Upanzi Node collaboration roundtable (closed-door event), with commitments from participating nodes for the next 12 months. *Track 2:* Posters from Undergraduate / master students / PHD students
12:00 – 13:00	Networking lunch
13:00 – 13:30	Launch of the North and Southern Africa Digital ID Hackathons
13:30 – 13:40	Announcement of the picoCTF Africa initiative and recognition of mini-CTF competition winners
13:40 – 14:00	Closing remarks by Upanzi Digital Public Infrastructure Network and Al Akhawayn University
14:30 – 15:30	University and city tour

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