CHECK POINT™



Thursday, May 28, 2026

5 MINS

Opening Remarks



Bill Diaz
Vice President, Verticals
Check Point

25 MINS

Opening Government Keynote



Adina Pantella
Executive Director
U.S. Customs & Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

40 MINS

AI Is the New Battlefield: How Public Sector Leaders Secure What's Next



Paul Barbosa
Vice President, Cloud & SASE
Check Point



Yochai Corem
General Manager, Exposure Management
Check Point



Chris Riley
Global Vice President for Workspace Security Sales
Check Point



Rae Roberts
President of America Sales
Check Point

AI is not just another technology shift—it is redefining the threat landscape and the mission itself. Today, attackers are using AI as a force multiplier, dramatically increasing the speed, scale, and success of cyberattacks, while agencies simultaneously race to adopt AI across their operations.
In this dynamic, leadership-led session, we'll examine how security must evolve to meet this moment. You'll hear how organizations are revalidating their security foundations and leveraging AI as both a defensive advantage and operational accelerator.

We will cover:

- Why hybrid mesh architectures are critical to securing distributed government environments
- How workspace security enables a mobile workforce without compromising compliance
- The role of Continuous Threat Exposure Management in closing visibility gaps and getting ahead of threats
- How to secure AI—from usage to infrastructure to applications

This session will challenge conventional thinking and provide a roadmap for securing AI transformation—without compromising speed, scale, or trust.

40 MINS

Securing Critical Infrastructure in Agencies' Cybersecurity



Darrell Andrews
Professor, Cybersecurity and IT
Northern Virginia Community College

Daniel Austin
Senior Cybersecurity SME
U.S. Space Force



Dr. Jim Chen
Professor, College of Information and Cyberspace
National Defense University, U.S. Department of Defense



Mac Avancena
Field CISO
Check Point

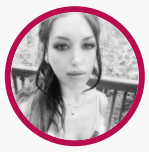


Tom Suder
President
ATARC

As cyber threats grow in scale and sophistication, securing critical infrastructure has become a top priority for agencies tasked with protecting national interests. This panel will explore strategies to strengthen the cybersecurity posture of vital systems, as well as dive into topics such as risk mitigation, cross-agency collaboration, and the integration of emerging technologies to detect, defend, and recover from potential attacks. Tune in to this conversation to gain insight into how federal leaders are advancing resilience and operational continuity across the most essential components of government infrastructure.

40 MINS

Harnessing Gen AI for Smarter Government Operations



Dr. Hala Nelson
Professor of Mathematics
James Madison University



Avi Rembaum
President of Technical Sales
Check Point Software Technologies



Howard Spira
Chief Information Officer
Export-Import Bank of the United States



CDR Jonathan White
AI & Data Chief
U.S. Coast Guard



Tom Suder
President
ATARC

Generative AI is transforming the government by streamlining operations, enhancing decision-making, and improving service delivery. This discussion will examine its wide-ranging applications—from automating tasks and analyzing large datasets to strengthening cybersecurity and enabling predictive insights. Government leaders are using Gen AI to drive innovation, boost transparency, and allocate resources more effectively. Panelists will explore strategies for implementing Gen AI at scale, while addressing key challenges such as data privacy, security, and integration with legacy systems.

25 MINS

Fireside Chat



Suneel Cherukuri
Chief Information Security Officer
Government of the District of Columbia



Cindi Carter
Field CISO
Check Point

25 MINS

Government Keynote



Adam Nemethy
Director (Acting), N-Wave, Office of the Chief Information Officer
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

40 MINS

AI in Security Programs: Navigating Benefits, Threats, and Oversight



Suneel Cherukuri
Chief Information Security Officer
Government of the District of Columbia



Keith A. Hartung
Chief Security Officer
Pennsylvania Treasury Department



Steve Pitcher
Former Senior Cyber Survivability Analyst
U.S. Department of Defense



Glen Deskin, CISSP
Head of Engineering & Cybersecurity Evangelist, Office of the CTO
Check Point Software Technologies



Tom Suder
President
ATARC

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly embedded in security operations, agencies must weigh the transformative benefits against emerging risks. AI enhances threat detection, automates incident response, and improves decision-making across security ecosystems. However, its use also introduces new vulnerabilities, such as adversarial manipulation and opaque decision processes. Recent executive orders on AI governance and safety are reshaping how government programs develop, deploy, and monitor AI tools, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and risk mitigation. This panel will bring together experts to explore the evolving landscape of AI in security, focusing on balancing innovation with responsible oversight.

20 MINS

Frontline Cyber Intelligence for the Public Sector



Sergey Shykevich
Group Manager
Check Point

This Check Point Research briefing focuses on the most pressing cyber threats facing the public sector today. Drawing on real-world research and global threat intelligence, this session will examine emerging threats driven by the rapid AI transformation, as well as recent activity by Iranian nation-state actors targeting the United States. Attendees will leave with clear, actionable takeaways to help agencies strengthen resilience, reduce risk, and better prepare for the evolving threat landscape.

40 MINS

Zero Trust in 2026



Mark Canter
Chief Information Security Officer
Government Accountability Office (GAO)



Landon Shaw
Senior Enterprise Architect
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts



Rudolf Rojas
Information Technology Manager
U.S. Department of Agriculture

As cyber threats continue to evolve, federal agencies are accelerating efforts to implement Zero Trust Architecture as a foundational element of their security strategies. This panel will examine the state of Zero Trust in 2026, highlighting progress made, lessons learned, and remaining challenges in achieving full adoption across government environments. Join us to explore how panel experts are operationalizing Zero Trust to enhance resilience, protect critical assets, and meet federal mandates in an increasingly complex threat landscape.

25 MINS

Closing Government Keynote



Aaron Welch
Director of IT Security (Former)
City of Chattanooga, Tennessee

3:30 PM EDT

1 HR, 30 MINS

Networking Reception

In addition to supporting DC Public Schools through our onsite book drive, attendees are invited to stay for the networking reception in the expo area featuring a special Meet-and-Greet with Washington legends Gary Clark and Fred Smoot. Guests are encouraged to bring their favorite Washington football gear — jerseys, hats, footballs, and memorabilia — for the opportunity to have items signed during the event. It’s a fun way to wrap up the day, connect with peers, and take home a memorable experience from Engage Public Sector.