

JOHN M. ROMERO

Texas A&M Cybersecurity Center
Computer Science and Engineering
Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES)
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Executive Summary

Cybersecurity instructor, maker of IoT, techie, software developer, private pilot, U.S. Air Force veteran, and electronic warfare technician. Mentor, coach, and facilitator for young adults entering the workforce. Passionate instructor and influencer for positive ethical leadership. Research interests include cybersecurity social engineering, human element in cybersecurity, Smart Manufacturing, and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) hacking.

EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), Atlanta, Georgia

- *Cybersecurity, Master of Science (Online)*
- Enrolled - Fall 2019
- Estimated graduate date: Fall 2023

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

- *Computer Science, Bachelor of Science*, 1996
- Minor, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Overall GPR 3.11

Blinn College, College Station, Texas

August 1990 - December 1992

- Overall GPR 3.8, President's Scholar and Blinn Distinguished Student

TEACHER / EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

(*denotes course curriculum development)

Texas A&M Cybersecurity Center

June 2018 – Present

- ◆ FIVS489/CYBR489 – Digital Forensics and Incident Response *
- ◆ GenCyber camps: Teaching cybersecurity concepts to K-12 educators and students *

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

September 2013 – Present

- ◆ CYB201 – Cybersecurity for Business Executives *
- ◆ AWR135 – Promoting Community Cybersecurity
- ◆ AWR136 – Essentials of Community Cybersecurity
- ◆ AWR376 – Understanding Targeted Cyber Attacks
- ◆ MGT384 – The EOC's Role in Community Cybersecurity
- ◆ MGT385 – Community Cybersecurity Exercise Planning
- ◆ MGT452 – Physical and Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure
- ◆ PER371 – Cybersecurity Incident Response for IT Personnel *
- ◆ Secondary cyber camps: Cyber Camps for 9th - 12th grade; Raspberry Pi, electronics, python, Linux *
- ◆ TEEX Essential Leadership Behaviors *

RESEARCH / FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

- ◆ NSA GenCyber; Co-PI; 2018; Teach K-12 Educators the valued principals of cybersecurity
- ◆ CSCoRE; GRTI; Co-PI, facilitator, project manager; 2019; Commissioned Cadets working on and with Drones/UAS
- ◆ Air Force Research Labs; CSCoRE; GRTI; Co-PI, facilitator, project manager; 2018; Working with commissioned cadets on projects needed by the U.S. Armed Forces
- ◆ DoD P3; Co-PI; 2018-Present; Scholarships for Service for academic students including some capacity building projects for labs
- ◆ DoD CySP; Co-PI; 2018-Present; Scholarships for Service for academic students including some capacity building projects for labs

PRESENTATIONS

- ◆ Jul 2020; 2020 TIVA (Texas Industry Vocational Association) Conference; Virtual (Covid19); Title: *The Weakest Link in Cybersecurity: Breaking Down the Dangers of Social Engineering*
- ◆ April 2020; 30th Annual Outlook for Texas Land Markets Conference; San Antonio, Texas; Title: *The Latest Cyber Scams – Avoidance and Remedies (Cancelled due to Covid19)*
- ◆ March 2020; 3rd Annual National Symposium for Supply Chain Automation; Atlanta, Georgia; Title: *The Weakest Link in Cybersecurity: Breaking Down the Dangers of Social Engineering*
- ◆ February 2020; 2020 Texas Association of Appraisal Districts (TAAD) Conference; Dallas, Texas; Title: *Cybersecurity: Protecting Your Government Data Against Fraud*; ~500 attendees
- ◆ January 2020; G3X Germania Insurance Conference; San Antonio, Texas; Title: *Cybersecurity for Small Business*; ~600 attendees
- ◆ October 2019; Texas Military Department – Cyberaware19; Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas; Title: *The Weakest Link in Cybersecurity...An Introduction to the Dangers of Social Engineering*; ~100 attendees
- ◆ June 2019; 2019 Small Business / Washington County Chamber of Commerce Conference; Brenham, Texas; Title: *Cybersecurity for Small Business (and Manufacturing too!)*; ~100 attendees
- ◆ February 2019; 38th Annual Conference on Appraisal District Administration; Austin, Texas; Title: *What Everyone Ought to Know About Small Business's Biggest Cybersecurity Concerns Today*; ~500 attendees
- ◆ April 2018; 28th Annual Texas Land Markets Outlook Conference; San Antonio, Texas; Title: *Data Breaches, Hackers, Infiltration – Oh my, I'm Just a Small Business Owner!*; ~500 attendees
- ◆ February 2018; TAGITM Texas Association of Governmental Information Technology Managers; San Antonio, Texas; Title: *The Weakest Link in Cybersecurity*; ~50 attendees
- ◆ June 2017; Additive Manufacturing & Advanced Materials Workshop; Houston, Texas; Title: *What Everyone Ought to Know About Manufacturing's Biggest Cybersecurity Concerns Today*; ~100 attendees
- ◆ February 2017; Houstex Conference; Houston, Texas; Title: *What Everyone Ought to Know About Manufacturing's Biggest Cybersecurity Concerns Today*; ~300 attendees
- ◆ November 2016; Governor's Small Business Forum & Texas Forest Country Economic Summit, Lufkin, Texas; Title: *Don't Go Under! Surviving a Cyber Attack*; ~250 attendees
- ◆ August 2016; Government Procurement Conference 2016; Fort Worth, Texas; Title: *Cybersecurity – Vulnerability and Assessment*; ~250 attendees
- ◆ July 2016; 3rd Annual Bay Area Emergency Managers Conference (BAEM); San Francisco, California; Title: *Resilience After a Cybersecurity Attack – Implementing a Prudent Cybersecurity Emergency Management Program*; ~300 attendees

- ◆ June 2016; Software Developer's Cartel – AdventGX; Bryan, Texas; Title: *The Anatomy of Ransomware – Insider's Look into an Exploit*; ~75 attendees
- ◆ June 2016; Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) 2016 Mid-Year Conference; Plano, Texas; Title: *The Economic Impact of Not Implementing a Prudent Cybersecurity Program*; ~250 attendees

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- ◆ November 12, 2019; Interviewed by Julia Potts, The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas; **A&M student loses thousands of dollars to Social Security scam** http://www.thebatt.com/news/a-m-student-loses-thousands-of-dollars-to-social-security/article_76d0abc4-05c0-11ea-939f-4ff828dc17e3.html
- ◆ July 30, 2019; Interviewed by Haley Vyrostek, KBTX; **Local pilot, cybersecurity expert weighs in on national small plane hacking alert** <https://www.kbtx.com/content/news/Local-pilot-cybersecurity-expert-weighs-in-on-national-small-plane-hacking-alert-513423261.html>
- ◆ January 15, 2019; Interviewed by Rebecca Fiedler, The Eagle, Bryan, Texas; **TEEX camp teaches students about programming, tech** https://www.theeagle.com/news/local/teex-camp-teaches-students-about-programming-tech/article_4fd4bc7a-8f20-11e9-a236-67aff58377a.html
- ◆ January 16, 2019; Interviewed by Kathleen Witte, KBTX; **Keeping cyber-secure as Aggieland welcomes students back to town** <https://www.kbtx.com/content/news/Keeping-cyber-secure-as-Aggieland-welcomes-students-back-to-town-504450951.html>
- ◆ November 5, 2018; Interviewed by Kenny Wiley, The Eagle, Bryan, Texas; **Honoring Our Veterans: The Romero Family** https://www.theeagle.com/news/local/honoring-our-veterans-the-romero-family/article_400f1fbc-7bc3-5175-a588-ae933a239ebe.html
- ◆ August 21, 2018; Interviewed by Kerrie Hall, KAGS, Bryan, Texas; **TEEX technology expert speaks on 3D-printed guns** <https://www.kagstv.com/article/news/local/teex-technology-expert-speaks-on-3d-printed-guns/499-586360199>
- ◆ August 15, 2018; Interviewed by Kerrie Hall, KAGS, Bryan, Texas; **TEEX Cyber Innovation Camp** <https://www.kagstv.com/video/news/teex-cyber-innovation-camp/499-8221182>
- ◆ August 15, 2018; Interviewed by Kerrie Hall, KAGS, Bryan, Texas; **TEEX Cyber Innovation camp provides hands on stem training** <https://www.kagstv.com/article/news/local/teex-cyber-innovation-camp-provides-hands-on-stem-training/499-584421301>
- ◆ August 2, 2018; Interviewed by Chelsea Katz, The Eagle, Bryan, Texas; **TEEX Cyber Innovation Camp lets students delve into programming** https://www.theeagle.com/news/local/teex-cyber-innovation-camp-lets-students-delve-into-programming/article_f831677e-68dd-562e-b663-75ba54e55a80.html
- ◆ June 12, 2018; Interviewed by Noelle Bellows, KBTX, Bryan, Texas; **Blinn College and TEEX help small businesses protect against cyberattacks** <https://www.kbtx.com/content/news/Blinn-College-and-TEEX-offer-class-to-help-small-businesses-protect-against-cyberattacks-485237791.html>
- ◆ June 10, 2018; Interviewed by staff reporter, The Eagle, Bryan, Texas; **Blinn, TEEX offering cybersecurity course on June 22** https://www.theeagle.com/news/local/blinn-teex-offering-cybersecurity-course-on-june/article_568e2c3e-63a5-5198-b523-f6d0df1a802a.html
- ◆ June 4, 2018; Interviewed by Whitney Miller, KBTX, Bryan, Texas; **New course aims to protect small business from cyber attack** <https://www.kbtx.com/content/news/New-course-aims-to-protect-small-business-from-cyber-attack-484541691.html>
- ◆ November 25, 2014; Interviewed by David Norris, KBTX, Bryan, Texas; **Hacker Steals Password, Nearly Swipes \$20K from College Station Woman** <https://www.kbtx.com/home/headlines/Hacker-Steals-Password-Nearly-Swipes-20K-from-College-Station-Woman-283904461.html>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M Cybersecurity Center

June 2018 – Present

Assistant Director

- ◆ Responsible for operations and assist in proposal preparation, staffing, and budgeting
- ◆ Perform outreach / education with cybersecurity presentations, training, and workforce development
- ◆ Mentor and coach undergraduate and graduate students to become successful leaders
- ◆ Cybersecurity instructor and curriculum developer
- ◆ Promote and manage the Texas Cyber Range (TxCR)

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

January 2013 – January 2020

(TEEX)

Training Instructor for the National Emergency Response and Recovery Training Center (NERRTC)

- ◆ Cybersecurity instructor for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funded training
- ◆ Engaged outreach for cyber enterprise initiatives by providing leadership, mentorship and technical expertise

Program Director for the Knowledge Engineering Center (KEC)

- ◆ Responsible for the direction of the Knowledge Engineering Center including; new product development, marketing, sales, proposal preparation, staffing and budgeting
- ◆ Generated \$1 million dollars in revenue annually
- ◆ Managed development team and overall vision of all products and product research development
- ◆ Assigned to the TEEX Leadership Development team which establishes and trains agency leaders

NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Embedded Coordinator

- ◆ Responsible for working with the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) to help small and medium sized manufacturers understanding Smart Manufacturing
- ◆ Assisted TMAC in developing a Center of Excellence for Smart Manufacturing
- ◆ Developed and delivered “Train the Trainer” curriculum for the TMAC COE members

Texas A&M University System (TAMUS)

March 2009 – January 2013

(Enterprise Software Initiatives)

Senior Lead Software Developer

- ◆ Developed, designed and deployed enterprise applications for the System (TAMUS LMS: TrainTraq, Time & Effort, Policy & Regulations)
- ◆ Managed projects, mentored, and supervised teams as senior lead for junior developers. Used the latest Agile Development methods (Scrum) for task management and deployment schedules
- ◆ Technology: .net (3.5/4.0); Web Forms; MVC (3.0); SSRS; SSIS; Team Foundation Services (TFS)

Intellamed, Inc., Bryan, Texas

June 2000 – March 2009

(Sterilblue.com; AuctionMart.com, MedRFP.com)

Vice President of Operations

- ◆ Responsible for all operations, including process management, customer care, strategic planning, and warehouse centers in Bryan, TX and St. Louis, MO. Managed team to create from scratch call-center calling scripts, operating procedures and manuals for call-center and warehouse management

Director of Software Development

- ◆ Designed, developed and deployed e-commerce applications for all Intellamed product lines (Apache HTTP Server, Apache Tomcat, PHP, Microsoft SQL, MySQL, Firebird Database)
- ◆ Managed, designed and developed a Clinical Engineering Management portal, Service2, which allowed our hospital equipment service technicians to communicate and manage assets

Viatal, Inc. (Destia Communications/Econophone), Bryan, Texas November 1998 – June 2000
Application Development Manager
◆ Managed a web-team and GUI team; designed and developed several proprietary global customer service applications utilizing 3-tier for more than 300 users spanning over 8 different locations
March 1997 – November 1998

Fields Financial Services, Inc., Bryan, Texas
Senior Object-Oriented/GUI Developer

Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Huntsville, Texas May 1996 - March 1997
ADP Programmer II

Department of Computer Science / Department of Geology, June 1995 - May 1996
Texas A&M, College Station, Texas August 1994 - December 1994
Teaching Assistant/Grader and GIS Technician

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

United States Air Force, Active Duty, Minot Air Force Base, Minot, North Dakota
*August 1986 - January 1990 (Job: **Electronic Warfare Technician**)*

- Promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6) and supervised technicians in Electronic Warfare Shop
- Air Force Achievement Medal and Honorable Discharge
- Maintained, modified and repaired electronic radar jamming systems

Texas Air National Guard, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas
*August 1990 - October 1993 (Job: **Disaster Preparedness Instructor/Trainer**)*
➤ Trained base personnel for chemical, biological and nuclear defense

MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

- Women's Society of Cyberjutsu (Associate member), Arlington, Virginia
- Brazos Valley Cybersecurity Work Group (BVCWG), Bryan, Texas
- Blinn College – Computer Information Technology (CIT) Advisory Committee
- College Station Independent School District – Career and Technical Education Committee
- Bryan Independent School District – Career and Technical Education Committee
- Brazos Valley Project Managers, Bryan, Texas
- Software Developers Cartel, Bryan, Texas
- Experimental Aircraft Association, Oshkosh, Wisconsin
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Frederick, Maryland
- Scouting BSA, Sam Houston Area Council
- Girls Who Code, Regional Facilitator
- FIRST LEGO League, Jr. Lead Coach, Mentor
- American Legion, Post 159
- InfraGard, Houston Chapter

HONORS / AWARDS

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) STAR award: 2017, 2019
- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Excellence in Innovation: 2013
- Blinn Distinguished Student & President's Scholar: 1993