

## **Native Computer Science & Cybersecurity Conference Event Report**

The event I “attended” was a recording of a speaker at a computer science and cybersecurity conference. The title of the event is the Native Computer Science & Cybersecurity Conference (NCSCC). The speaker at the event was Dr. Prakash Ranganathan from the University of North Dakota. I attended this event on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at around 3:00 pm when I watched the video. The event can be seen through YouTube with the title of “Keynote: Dr. Prakash Ranganathan | Native Computer Science & Cybersecurity Conference (NCSCC)”. I chose this event to attend because after watching it the concepts and ideas talked about resonating with me more than other events I attended.

The speaker himself spoke clearly and tried to use his expertise and experience to show newcomers into the industry for concepts and new emerging technology to look at. One concept he brought up was the difference between Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) and how the attacks on OT have been increasing over the years. Gone are the days where you just must be defending just IT, but now OT cybersecurity is a real career path. I have only ever looked at IT when looking at technology and information security so knowing that this other branch of technology is a growing field may lead me to move my focus in the future. Another core concept he talks about is the cyber kill chain and what it is and its importance in the industry. He breaks down the steps of the cyber kill chain and how hackers use each step to compromise technological systems. This was like putting a face to a name as some would say as obviously there are major steps hackers take when hacking but having a model that you can use to track behavior is helpful.

I found the information presented interesting and insightful to my field of information security and technology. The speaker dissected new emerging technology threats related to security

which help me locate where I should be looking in the future. Between showing the shift into OT and also how AI is intersecting with computer systems, the speaker made it very clear about the ever-changing landscape that is technology. This section on AI he talks about is what I found most relevant to my field. The speaker does a great job highlighting AI beneficial and malevolent impacts on computer systems and society. AI can help make systems more productive and secure but can also be used as a tool to create deep fakes or committing identity theft. I found this finding the good and bad of new technology to be a good state of mind to have.

I chose this topic and the speaker specifically because he talks about the field of cybersecurity and technology. This is the field and area of expertise I would like to enter after I graduate. I am currently seeking an information security diploma and watching a speaker talking about new technologies and core concepts related to keeping technology secure helps keep me up to date. When looking at technology-related fields they are always changing as new technology is created and invented. That is why it is so important to attend events like this to listen to people on the front lines dealing with these new technologies and getting their insights. I don't want to enter the workforce and only have textbook knowledge. I want to have experience and up to date knowledge of what is actually happening in the industry.

After attending the NCSCC I was able to learn and experience what it's like to watch an experienced individual talk about their experience in the industry I'm interested in. Learning about emerging technologies and concepts they view as vital to success was helpful. This attendance of events is something I would like to continue to make sure I can gain more insight before I enter the industry. While this was just a video, maybe in the future I will be able to attend one in person.

## References

Center for Cyber Security Research, UND. (2026). *Keynote: Dr. Prakash Ranganathan / Native Computer Science & Cybersecurity Conference (NCSCC)* [Video]. YouTube.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUPhUie8xTg>