



The ATPC Cyber Forum

The ATPC Cyber Forum is a culmination of ATPC and industry efforts to provide an ongoing platform of routine interaction for industry and government cyber experts to build community, educate public and private stakeholders about the payments industry critical infrastructure, and to prepare for possible negative cyber events that could strike the payments sector located in Georgia's "Transaction Alley". The mission is to dramatically improve the "resiliency" of a part of America's financial grid that impacts nearly everyone in our nation each and every day.

The Forum

Pre-Launch Outreach

The ATPC executed a comprehensive engagement strategy that included a series of meetings during 2015 and 2016 to better understand the structure, threats and responses associated with cyber-attacks on the payments industry. Meetings included leaders from the U.S. Senate Homeland Security staffers and their peers in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA). It became clear that a major cyber-attack on Transaction Alley required increased public and private sector collaboration, and new tools to get the industry back online (disaster recovery), along with improved detection and prevention protocols to minimize risk.

ATPC leadership and board members visited the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) during its Capitol Hill Fly-In in November 2015, and pitched the idea for an ongoing convening of key stakeholders to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Also in attendance at that meeting were representatives from the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice and the Treasury Department. DHS Leadership supported the cyber forum concept, which led ATPC to convene a roundtable in April 2016 featuring key stakeholders from DHS, GTA, FBI, City of Atlanta, industry companies, and more.

Inaugural Launch Event – May 22, 2017 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

This first session brought together key state and federal leaders along with key industry players to discuss the Transaction Alley "ecosystem," and current cyber planning and response capabilities. United States Senators Isakson and Perdue endorsed this new Cyber-Forum mission with a call-to-action for participants to continue the meetings, and develop working groups to drive better understanding, awareness, relationships that result in improved preparedness.

The Forum *(cont'd)*

Cyber Forum Series

The Cyber Forum as endorsed by the business community and Congressional leaders, will be an ongoing series of meetings and working groups to tackle security issues related to preventing attacks and increasing resiliency in the aftermath of one. The first, successful meeting laid the foundation for future events, the next of which will be held at Georgia Tech. Please continue to follow the ATPC for announcements on the formation of a Cyber Forum Working Groups and other meetings.

Cyber Forum Supporters:

Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA): “At this first Transaction Alley Cyber Forum, we are bringing together the best minds from both government and the private sectors to address critical security issues facing the electronic payments industry and to develop effective solutions. I am grateful for the American Transaction Processors Coalition for convening such an important forum, which is in the best interest of our economic, financial and national security. I am proud to be a part of it.”

Senator David Perdue (R-GA): “It’s fitting Atlanta is the host of this event, given the enormous role the region plays in electronic transaction processing. Companies based here in Transaction Alley, along with local and state officials, work hard to combat cyber security threats and stay ahead of the curve. Georgia plays a key role in protecting our nation’s consumers and businesses, and I look forward to working with everyone here today to continue these efforts.”

Attorney General Chris Carr, State of Georgia: “In Georgia, it is known that government is a partner, not an adversary, to the business community, and I believe that unique attitude makes our state a very special place to live, work and play. When it comes to evolving threats against our cyber networks, that mindset also gives us a platform to work together to do right by our citizens and make sure we have the strongest defenses possible. We must remain vigilant in addressing the issue of cybersecurity, and we are proud to work alongside the ATPC and other public-private stakeholders in this effort.”

Ricardo Grave-de-Peralta, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI Atlanta office: “FBI Atlanta is honored to be engaged in the Cyber Forum and participate in the inaugural event. We look to remain a resource for both industry companies and government agencies moving forward.”

John Horn, United States Attorney, Northern District of Georgia, U.S. Department of Justice: “The 2017 Cyber Forum in Atlanta brought together Georgia’s government cybersecurity leaders and created an environment where we could exchange concerns and trends with corporate and private sector officials and enhance our efforts to prevent and prosecute cybercrime directed at our district from across the globe.”

Calvin Rhodes, Executive Director, Georgia Technology Authority: “Keeping pace in cybersecurity today calls for establishing critical relationships that cross state and federal lines and bridge the public and private sectors. The Cyber Forum brings value by helping to establish those relationships.”

Cyber Forum Supporters *(cont'd)*

Klint Walker, Cyber Security Advisor for Region IV, Department of Homeland Security: “As the Cyber Advisor for Region IV, interfacing with Atlanta companies is critical to our success in preparing for the worst – a cyber-attack that could damage the intricacies of the payments process that support the entire nation, and parts of the world. The Cyber Forum is just one event for all parties to gather and share information and trending topics, and I look forward to individual conversations with industry executives on how DHS can assist in planning for better protection and collaboration in the event of an attack.”

What is the ATPC?

The American Transaction Processors Coalition protects, promotes, and preserves the payments industry as well as the nearly 100 Georgia-based companies that develop the products and provide resources supporting the financial service industry’s technology needs through proactive government affairs and public relations.

What is Transaction Alley? Georgia’s Transaction Alley which spans from the northern suburbs of Atlanta south to Columbus, Georgia is a core component of the entire U.S. financial grid’s critical infrastructure. Transaction Alley is the nerve center for U.S. payment processing with linkages across the globe. The payment processing industry, based largely in Georgia, is dynamic and growing, supporting the more than \$7.4 Trillion in credit card transactions that occurred in the U.S. last year alone. More than 60 percent of payments industry companies are based in Atlanta and 70 percent of all U.S. payments processed run through Georgia. Developing a recovery plan and maintaining response readiness is critical to the integrity of our financial system in the age of growing cybersecurity threats. The U.S. financial grid is made up of many ecosystems which includes traditional consumer and corporate banking, platform trading (stocks, bonds, commodities, energy), insurance, alternative lending, credit platforms, payments and others. The payments sector of the U.S. financial grid is arguably the most complex ecosystem residing inside the financial grid and therein lies some of the unique security challenges.

Contact:

Contact H. West Richards, ATPC Executive Director, at west@atpcoalition.org for more information on the Cyber Forum or to get involved in a future event.