

Cybersecurity Horizons 2026

Deepfakes & Democracy: Real Threat or Overhyped Fear?

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 | 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Venue: Gloria Coles Flint Public Library | C.S. Mott Foundation Community Room

Hosted by the UM-Flint Center for Cybersecurity

Time	Program
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Registration
SESSION 1	
Moderator: <i>Lucine Jarrah</i>	
11:00-11:10	Welcome Remarks Abby Parrill-Baker, Ph.D. <i>Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Michigan–Flint</i>
11:10 – 11:40 AM	AI and National Security: Strengthening Cyber Resilience Across Government and Industry <i>Jennifer Tisdale, Director and Event Co-Chair, National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) – Michigan Chapter</i>
11:40 – 12:10 AM	Front-Door and Backdoor Vulnerabilities in AI Systems <i>Rada Mihalcea, Janice M. Jenkins Collegiate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor</i>
12:10 – 12:45 AM	Defending Democracy with AI-Powered Audio Forensics <i>Hafiz Malik, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Michigan–Dearborn</i>
12:50 – 1:30 PM	Lunch and State of Cybersecurity Education, Research and Commercialization at the University of Michigan-Flint <i>Khalid Malik, Director, UM-Flint Center for Cybersecurity; Professor of Computer Science</i>
SESSION 2	
Moderator: <i>Dr. Khalid Malik</i>	
Time	Program
1:30 – 2:10 PM	Biometrics in an AI World: Opportunities and Challenges <i>Arun Ross, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Michigan State University</i>
2:10 – 2:50 PM	Deepfakes, Disinformation, and Democracy: Protecting Public Trust in the Age of Artificial Intelligence <i>Barbara McQuade, Professor from Practice, University of Michigan Law School</i>

Time	Program
2:50 – 3:20 PM	The Future of Trust: Reputation, Deepfakes, and Democracy <i>Paul Resnick, Michael D. Cohen Collegiate Professor of Information, University of Michigan School of Information</i>
3:20 – 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Panel Discussion — Deepfakes & Democracy: Real Threat or Overhyped Fear? ★ Symposium Theme <i>Panelists: Paul Resnick, Barbara McQuade, Rada Mihalcea, Hafiz Malik</i>

Note: Times and speakers are subject to change. Please check with the organizers for the final program.

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