



## CYBERSECURITY SKILLS JOURNAL: PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

### ***Call for Proposals: Facilitated Virtual Focus Groups Encouraging dialogues about challenges, opportunities, and effective practices***

The goal of the *Cybersecurity Skills Journal: Practice and Research (CSJ)* is to stimulate professional discussion and advance the interdisciplinary field of cybersecurity through the publication of scholarly works of value and interest to the profession. To encourage the community in critical discussions surrounding the broader cybersecurity workforce, *CSJ* invites practitioners, scholars, and educators to propose and lead virtual Focus Groups that will explore specific challenges and persistent problems related to raising the capabilities of the cybersecurity workforce.

Focus Groups are not lectures, presentations, webinars or panel discussions. All registered attendees for the Focus Group are encouraged to join in the real-time discussion on each question and share their expertise; proposers become the facilitators of the Focus Group discussion. Focus Groups are ideal for gathering data from a diverse group of participants. Individual discussion sessions will run between 90 and 120 minutes, with different sessions starting at 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM (Eastern). The transcript of these Focus Groups may be published as a Dialogue in an upcoming Special Issue. To learn more about Dialogues and Focus Groups, please review our [Dialogue Overview Briefing](#).

#### 2023 Focus Group Calls

Focus Groups may address any aspect of research into cybersecurity but must align both with a currently open [Calls for Proposals](#) for a Special Issue and the Journal's mission: emphasis should be placed on enhancing the capabilities of the cybersecurity practitioner, educator, or researcher. Submissions related to cybersecurity technology or tools should emphasize the human factors involved in the technology design, development, use, or support.

Those interested in proposing a Focus Group are encouraged to first attend a [Proposal Development Workshop](#) to learn more about the core elements of proposing to *CSJ* and optimize their chances for a successful proposal. Proposals must clearly identify the session topic, e.g., the specific problem and research questions to be explored. Focus Group proposals must also include at least three named and invited participants that are subject matter experts or stakeholders (e.g., practitioners, hiring managers, CISOs, learners, educators, government, academia, industry, K12, higher ed, etc.) impacted by the proposed topic of the Focus Group. All ideas submitted will be reviewed by the *CSJ* Editorial Board.

Accepted proposers may choose to pursue publishing their Focus Group discussion as a research manuscript in the form of a *CSJ* Dialogue. *CSJ* records all sessions and provides each session facilitator both an audio recording and an automatic transcription of their group discussion. Facilitators review and edit the transcript, and provide an introduction and summary remarks before submitting the Dialogue for publication in a Special Issue from *CSJ*.

Submission link for 2023 Focus Groups: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=csjoc2023>

#### **Timeline: Summer Focus Group for NICE Framework Special Issue (SI)**

- April 15, 2023: Call for Proposals published
- June 1: Submission deadline for NICE SI Focus Group proposals
- June 15, 2023: Notification sent to all proposers

- June 30, 2023: Registration for NICE SI Focus Group Event opens
- July 18, 2023: NICE Framework SI Focus Group Event

Proposals may address any research questions related to any *challenges, opportunities, or effective practices* related to the NICE Workforce Framework, such as:

- a. What are achievable measures of success for the NICE Strategic Plan, or for Implementation Plans from the NICE Working Groups or Communities of Interest?
- b. What challenges are YOU or YOUR ORGANIZATION wrestling with regarding implementation of the NICE Framework, e.g., challenges using the NICE Framework Competencies to develop the cybersecurity workforce needed in your specific industry or region.
- c. How might the refactored Knowledge and Skill statements inform research to empirically identify shortfalls in our cybersecurity workforce skills and/or training and preparation?
- d. Is there empirical evidence that cybersecurity competitions actually improve or provide accurate assessment of specific Knowledge or Skill statements in the NICE Framework? How could this evidence be collected or crowd-sourced?

**Upcoming Fall Focus Group: *Topic TBD, dates approximate***

- August 15, 2023: Call for Proposals published
- September 15, 2023: Submission deadline for Focus Group session proposals
- September 30, 2023: Notification sent to all Focus Group proposers
- October 15, 2023: Registration for Focus Group Event opens
- November 15, 2023: Focus Group Event



*Cybersecurity Skills Journal: Practice and Research* is published by the National CyberWatch Center. Our authors benefit from exceptional support including but not limited to constructive advice received from 10-person peer review and mentoring panels. Through print and electronic access, articles published in the *Cybersecurity Skills Journal* are available to a global audience of over 400 institutions and 35,000 potential readers. Additional information about *Cybersecurity Skills Journal* is available on the National CyberWatch web page at <https://csj.nationalcyberwatch.org>.