

NITSL NOW

Informing members about NITSL news & activities



Welcome to the December 2022 Newsletter!

Below you will find an update from NITSL Chair Amanda Engle, information from NEI, more on the NITSL 2023 Conference with theme and location, and the work our Standing Committees are doing.

A lot of hard work has been going on across NITSL with conference planning and initiatives!

If you aren't already plugged into a Standing Committee, now is a good time to jump in and participate.

Chairman's Update



Season's Greetings, NITSL Community! The weather here in Chicago is a bit frightful, so I certainly wouldn't mind Arizona right now! First, I'd like to thank Nick for the amazing refresh he's given our NITSL newsletter. It's informative, and eye-catching! The EC is always working on a million things at once, but I don't want to take over the whole newsletter! One big item we've focused on is refining NITSL's 5 Year Strategy and making it actionable. We've identified key initiatives within our strategic focus areas, and are currently developing a plan to help us achieve these goals. Our intention is to build something that will support NITSL for years to come, and not just

while we serve. We're very fortunate that APS has a stellar conference planning team which has allowed us to spend time on this!

Speaking of, the conference will be here before we know it! Conference planning is 24/7, but it will really ramp up after the new year.

I look forward to the next year and want to thank you all for your contributions to the NITSL organization. I wish each of you and your loved ones a wonderful and safe holiday season, and a very happy New Year!



Announcement

During this time of rising costs across the country, the NITSL Executive Committee is working hard to manage the costs associated with NITSL and the conference. Due to this, and also the fact that the NITSL membership fee has not changed in several years, be on the lookout for minor changes to help mitigate the increase in expenses.



NEI is hosting the NEI Cyber Security Implementation Workshop and associated Cyber Security Fundamentals Training during the week of March 19th in Savannah, GA. The training is scheduled on Sunday, March 19th, while the workshop is March 20 – 22.

The details for the event can be found here:

[2023 NEI Cyber Security Implementation Workshop \[nei.org\]](https://www.nei.org/2023-NEI-Cyber-Security-Implementation-Workshop)

2023 Conference



The NITSL conference provides a venue to hear from leaders in the nuclear industry as they discuss the future of nuclear technology and many of the initiatives within the four pillars of NITSL including presentations from Cyber Security, Digital Controls, Software Quality Assurance (SQA) and Infrastructure & Applications (I&A).



Be on the look out for conference registration to open up in Spring 2023. You can stay tuned in for this announcement via the newsletter, email blasts, LinkedIn, Standing Committee meetings, and the NITSL website.

2023 Conference Host



Standing Committees

Below you will find more information for each of the standing committees, their initiatives, and meeting information. If you would like to participate in these discussions, please join a meeting and/or reach out to the Chair or Co-Chair (click their names to send an email)

Infrastructure & Applications



[Josh Patrick](#)



[Thomas Brooks](#)

I&A (Infrastructure and Applications) focuses on the things each business partner uses every day. With several different utilities I&A is a place for folks to share issues and help get them resolved. I&A also focuses on new innovation and what each utility is doing to implement new technology.

Current Initiatives:

- **Data Crash Cart** – Thomas Brooks

The mobile crash cart solution will help authorized personnel to proactively identify & address equipment reliability issues since the cart can be moved to plant locations where data is needed but the data collection is not automated.

- **Low Code & No Code** – Morgan Keeler

No code and Low code platforms offer companies a quicker and easier path to develop and deploy web applications versus traditional development. We will be investigating and sharing different options as well as utilities' OE and lessons learned from their existing use of these platforms.

- **IoT/Segmented Network** – Josh Patrick
- **Named Data Network** – Dustin Hess

Named Data Network is a novel way to provide Transportation, Segmentation, and API based access to multiple vendor's IOT sensors in a cost effective and quick to deploy manner.

- **Emerging Tech in Nuclear** – Michael Peutl
- **Modern Workforce** – Brian Cason / Ben Nelson

In too many cases, our IT systems reflect the age of our plants. This effort will provide guidance on designing and developing systems that meet the expectations of the modern workforce.

- **Data and Analytics** – Chase Dewberry

We will look into examples of how Southern is using Nuclear data as an asset by utilizing the appropriate data at the appropriate time and presenting it to decision-makers in the appropriate visual format to achieve desired results. Input will also be gathered from other Nuclear professionals to try and identify any recent lessons learned or successes.

- **Changing Skillsets for the Future** – Nicole Fortune

What are the benefits of investing into developing soft skills within your employees, when the focus is getting the work done and that requires hard/technical skills? How does soft skills fit into IT culture and processes? How can you shift from project to product mindset?

Meeting Info:

Monthly Meeting - 4th Thurs each month, (alternate Thurs for November & December) - 4pm EST

Call in: 470-705-0860 and use conference ID: 682 395 1#

[Teams Meeting Link](#)

Digital Controls



[Mark Whitman](#)

The Digital Controls subcommittee is focused on embracing modern digital technologies, working on lifecycle strategies for digital devices, & utilizing industry procedures to enhance the process of obtaining & replacing digital components. Our main goals for this year are around expanding the team and sharing operating experience in line with our initiatives.



[Johnny Lindeman](#)

Current Initiatives:

- Revisit the roles and responsibilities supporting Digital Dexterity for a modernized workforce
 - Bridging the gap for IoT devices into the Cyber and Engineering Process network
- Strategies supporting technology obsolescence with focus on Supply Chain, Lifecycle management and the Typical IT Schedule for Hardware change
 - Highlight DEG/NISP-EN-04 Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement
 - Expanding the DC team with the next generation of Digital Engineers

Meeting Info:

Monthly Meeting – 3rd Monday of each month - 3:30pm EST

Call in: 704-659-4701 Conference ID: 316-394-272

[Teams Meeting Link](#)

Software Quality Assurance



[Michelle Vera](#)

While still having low attendance at our monthly meetings, the SQA committee keeps pushing forward. We have gained a few new members and are looking forward to seeing more.

With the support of the NITSL EC, Lacey and myself are working with NIRMA to collaborate on common SQA interests and were able to hold our first meeting in November, with a second meeting scheduled in December.

SQA will be making some changes in the future and I'm thrilled to see the start of them at the 2023 NITSL conference in July!



[Lacey Mowery](#)

Current Initiatives:

- Revive the SQA Committee
- Re-Establish the NITSL SQA Guidance Document

Meeting Info:

Monthly Meeting – 1st Wednesday of every month from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM MST (AZ time)

Call in: 1-443-833-0044 Participant ID: 696232272

[Teams Meeting Link](#)

Cyber Security



[Michael Dack](#)



[Kurt Hofmann](#)

The Cyber Security Standing Committee slogan is “A little security today prevents a lot of work tomorrow”, and that is the direction we are trying to head. With our 2022-2023 initiatives, we are hoping to take some best practices across the fleet today in areas of Vulnerability Management, System Hardening, Training, and Effectiveness Reviews, to drive a simpler tomorrow for our Industry Teams.

Current Initiatives:

- **Vulnerability Management** – Thomas Novotney

Provide guidance on Vulnerability Management Solutions that meet or exceed the goal of NEI 08-09 compliance. Goal is to investigate a software solution or process that allows industry to get the information efficiently and come back with confident vulnerability assessments that don't have any issues.

- **Cyber Security Specialized Training** – Matthew Tunis

Provide recommendations on specialized training and procedural guidance to align with NEI 08-09 E9 controls and industry experience to assist in improving implementation of these controls. Using inspection experience, violations, discussions and come up with what good looks like.

- **Effectiveness Reviews** – Ezra Chona

Make a template for all sites on what a good effectiveness review looks like, come up with a streamline template based on industry best practices

- **Effective System Hardening** – Garrett Clary

Sites working together to adopt a standardized process for hardening. Provide guidance or template on effective system hardening. Benchmarking sites on what they do and what they would like to do for hardening, then focus on efficient process or template and examples of what good looks like.

Meeting Info:

We meet bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 11amEST.

Call in: 1-470-705-0860 Conference ID: 540838509

[Teams Meeting](#)

There are a lot of interesting initiatives being addressed across NITSL! Now is the right time to get plugged in to learn more and/or contribute to any of those. Please reach out to the Chair and/or Co-Chair for more information on how you can get plugged in.

For continuous information, connect with NITSL on LinkedIn !



The NITSL Newsletter goal is to keep members involved and informed.

Feel free to provide feedback or comments at any time!

NITSL Bonus Fun

B Y E P P S N O I T A C I L P P A E R U T C U R T S A R F N I
 R C K S K H A V N X L N K D N A L R E I K L Q G O B G A S Z H
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APS

Committee

Conference

Cyber Security

Digital Controls

Empowering

Information

Infrastructure Applications

Initiatives

Innovation

Kierland

Meeting

Newsletter

NITSL

Nuclear

Scottsdale

Software Quality Assurance