NITSL NOW

Informing members about NITSL news & activities

Welcome to the December 2023 Newsletter!

Below you will find an update from NITSL Chair Alisha Bettcher, more on the NITSL 2024 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 standing committee initiatives!

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

Chairman's Update

Happy Holidays, NITSL Community! The weather here in Arizona has finally gotten below 80 degrees, so it's officially time to break out the sweaters! Frist, I'd like to thank Matt Rhone for his hard work setting up our new and improved NITSL member SharePoint site. He worked diligently to migrate all the content on the old site and made an effort to make the user experience much better. We appreciate you, Matt!

Conference planning is full steam ahead and I'd like to thank all of those staying engaged and attending the monthly standing committee meetings. We have some pretty great initiatives that are being worked on this year and next leading up to our 2024 conference in New Orleans! Please remember to save the date and join us next year , July 15 – 18.

Speaking of the conference, the EC will be spending some time reviewing call for papers and finalizing the agenda. We'll be in full conference planning mode after the New Year!

I look forward to next year and seeing everyone get back together in the summer. Thank you all for the continuous engagement, which helps make the NITSL organization successful! Have a safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Announcements

We are excited to announce that the NITSL SharePoint site is now an Office 365 site. It has a fresh, clean look with an easier way to find files and additional information on the standing committees.

Visit the NITSL.org homepage, select 'More', then 'Membership' to learn how to access the new site.

While conference registration won't open until 2024, we can process conference payments for anyone who wants to pay in 2023, if you desire. If you want to pursue this, please reach out to Cathy Przyjemski (cathy.przyjemski@nitsl.org)

Also be on the look out for your membership dues invoice coming out soon!

Follow NITSL (new company page) on LinkedIn for continuous updates!

Click on the logo to left to navigate right to it

50th NITSL Conference

Developing Workforce Resiliency Through Tech Enablement

July 15-18, 2024

The Roosevelt New Orleans
A Waldorf Astoria Hotel | New Orleans, LA

entergy

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 2024. You can stay tuned in for this announcement via the newsletter, email blasts, LinkedIn, Standing Committee meetings, and the NITSL website.

Standing Committees

Below you will find information on each subcommittee, the Chair and the Co-Chair.

NOTE: Monthly meetings are for utility members only. If you have any questions on this, please reach out to the respectable chair and/or co-chair. Click on their name to send them an email.

Infrastructure & Applications

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.

Initiatives:

1. Emerging Technology
2. Digital Transformation
3. Cloud first apps (Pros and Cons)
4. End to End Data Controls (Digital Worker)
5. Remote Worker
6. Robotics & Drones
7. Application Program Interface (API) Workshop Talk

Thomas Brooks

Morgan Keeler

Updates

We are making great progress on finalizing our initiatives, with good attendance during our monthly meetings. The current initiatives cover a range of topics, such as emerging technology, digital transformation, cloud-first apps, end-to-end data controls, remote work, robotics/drones, and an API. Various industry experts and members from different organizations are leading these initiatives to drive innovation and collaboration within the nuclear power industry.

Are you passionate about IT infrastructure and applications? Join the Infrastructure and Applications (I&A) Committee and become a leader in implementing and maintaining cost-effective solutions that align with the nuclear business strategy. By joining this committee, you will play a crucial role in ensuring the success of the nuclear power industry.

One of the key focuses of the I&A Committee is utilizing collaboration technology to enhance information sharing and communication within the NITSL community. By joining this committee, you will have the chance to leverage and promote the use of these technologies, fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation.

Fast Fact!
NITSL's roots go back to 1992 with the first NUSMG Workshop. In 2003, the current NITSL was established by the merger of the NUSMG and NITSL organizations

Cyber Security

Initiatives:

Accounts and Passwords Best Practices, Compensatory Measures for Monitoring Systems, Cyber Security Specialized Training, and Supply Chain/Warehouse Cyber Requirements-including E11.6 Testing Guideline

Updates

The Cyber Security Standing Committee (CSSC) has had members volunteer to lead and also to support all four Initiative Teams who have subsequently developed an Initiative Scope and scheduled regular meetings for each Initiative. The CSSC has also been working with the Digital Controls Standing Committee and SQA Standing Committee to capitalize on the areas of scope overlap between our committees to cooperate on solutions that can benefit everyone. Anyone interested in learning more about the CSSC can reach out Robert Koch or Kurt Hofmann for more information or an invite to the CSSC Bi-weekly call. As always, we hope to see everyone at the NITSL 2024 Conference in New Orleans where they can attend the CSSC break out sessions or visit with Robert or myself.

With digital equipment and smart technology becoming more ubiquitous in society and ever more present in the nuclear industry, the need for Cyber Security continues to grow. As industry members who will see the real world struggles and benefits of their solutions, our CSSC members enthusiastically work in cooperation towards consistent, efficient solutions to the most pressing Cyber Security challenges faced by our industry.

Kurt Hofmann

Robert Koch

Digital Controls

Initiatives:

Virtualization Strategies Pros/Cons vs Traditional Implementations

IT Lifecycle management best practices to implement into DC engineering processes

Gather Lessons Learned Over Challenges involving DEG/NISP throughout Design Organizations

Updates

Serves as a centralized platform for Nuclear Plant Systems. The group focuses heavily on the power of benchmarking between industry utilities, incorporating and sharing lessons learned from Operating Experience and System modifications, presenting advancements in technology that could be used across various digital systems at nuclear sites, as well as providing the opportunity for peer-to-peer collaboration to stimulate individual contributor and utility development.

The Digital Controls committee is relevant to workers who perform and/or support work of any kind on or for Digital Control Systems. Year after year at the annual conference a lot of helpful information, benchmarking, OE, Lessons Learned, etc. are presented and shared among the group. We feel bringing in more perspective from a diverse group of workers with varying contributions to the Digital Controls process would really benefit the DC Group as a whole. The conference also has many well-known (and some new) vendors who perform work on or with the sites and provide valuable interaction and networking.

This team is filled with people who are driven by a passion and commitment to digital control systems. We always strive to do better and to be better--that is why we value our old and new member contributors and what they bring to the table.

Brittany Streeter

Charles Melton

Software Quality Assurance (SQA)

Initiatives:

How does each utility define SQA Program? (Survey)

Review/rewrite the NITSL SQA Guidance Document

Where does SQA fit in the world of M&TE?

Updates

What are the nuclear industry's questions on SQA classifications? What do you wish you understood about SQA? We would like to provide answers to these questions and more.

Lacey Mowery

Morgan LeSage

We are looking for utility points of contact who can provide insight on the use of EPRI DEGs and other quality programs in place of SQA. We are also looking to collaborate with Digital Controls and Cyber Security sub-committees so anyone with interest and experience in these fields would be appreciated.

There is a large portion of our meeting where we discuss what is on everyone's minds, and provide guidance and a sounding board with other SQA professionals. We look forward to your engagement!

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.

NITSL 101

Whether you are new to NITSL or want to share about NITSL to your peers, the below information can be helpful in your discussions and engagements with others.

Nuclear Information Technology Strategic Leadership (NITSL) establishes a forum to provide leadership and strategic guidance for information technology in the nuclear industry.

The goal of NITSL is to be recognized by the nuclear industry as the authoritative source for leadership and strategic guidance related to nuclear business information technology and plant technology systems pertinent to safe, secure, reliable, and cost effective nuclear power generation. NITSL provides a forum of exchange through monthly meetings, operating experience sharing, and conferences along with development of products to address industry issues.

The purpose of NITSL is to coordinate a consistent direction in industry-wide initiatives, and serve as an interface for communications with regulators and industry groups. The current functional and topical focus areas of NITSL provide strategic direction and support for the following four (4) core process initiatives distinct to nuclear power generation: Software Quality Assurance (SQA), Cyber Security, Digital Controls (DC), and Infrastructure and Applications (I&A).

The vision is to develop integrated plans and outcomes that can be leveraged across the industry for improving plant digital and IT systems effectiveness and reliability.

The NITSL community has a wealth of knowledge and subject matter experts across nuclear information technology. We learn a lot from one another, work to shape the industry, and have great networking opportunities along the way.

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

Feel free to provide feedback or comments at any time!