



The Download with Dave

Welcome to another edition of Beacon Bits! I am amazed at the pace of our tech environments. New infrastructures being built, new threats from bad actors, new challenges from economic forces. In leadership, we are often judged by how well, and how fast, we adapt to changing conditions. Who reading this, had a plan for adaptation to the pandemic in their business continuity plan? In cybersecurity, the adage is not if, but when you are hit, so how do you respond? The winds of political change are having direct effect on many of our members. Most of us who work to build the most mature response models will still be adapting during the real event. I recently went to our national Quilt meetings and listened to the REN CEO's from North Carolina, Florida, Oklahoma and California talk about their responses to floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and fire respectively. Each one of them talked about the things they hadn't anticipated and how they adapted to those in real time. Most of those were individual human issues with the people affected by the event, many of whom were needed to help recover from it.

That said, there is no substitute for building a talented workforce to support the innovation and evolution of our digital transformation. To that end, I had the privilege to provide a few words of encouragement to the teams kicking off the finals of the NECCDL Championship at RWU this past weekend. Please read the article in this issue detailing the event and the 100+ college students utilizing their skills in cyber-defense. Awesome and inspiring to witness!!!

Dave Marble

CEO

David Marble is the President and CEO of OSHEAN Inc., and brings 40+ years of experience in engineering, sales and marketing, and operations in internet and telecommunications companies.

David serves on a number of regional boards, national boards, and strategic committees in the R&E community.

Community Story

RI Cyber Defense League

OSHEAN was proud to sponsor the 2025 Northeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NECCDC), hosted at Roger Williams University. Ten elite student teams from across the Northeast battled cyber threats in a high-stakes, three-day event.

From designing a dedicated network to witnessing future talent in action, it was a weekend to remember.

[Read The Article & See Who Won](#)

5 Questions

with Cindy Lepore | Manager, Membership Relations

In our latest “5 Questions” spotlight, Manager of Membership Relations Cindy Lepore shares how she’s helping OSHEAN members drive innovation, improve network resiliency, and bridge the digital divide - from free Wi-Fi access in Newport to infrastructure upgrades in Warwick.

Learn what inspires her work, the benefits of OSHEAN membership, and how each day brings new opportunities to make a difference.

[Read The Full Q&A](#)

CISO Cove with Dave Phillips

OSHEAN's Chief Information Security Officer

The Hidden Weak Link: Why Third-Party Risk is a Critical Cybersecurity Concern

Third-party risk is no longer a side note—it’s a major cybersecurity concern that can undermine even the strongest internal defenses. In our latest article, we explore why supply chain vulnerabilities pose such a serious threat, how attackers are exploiting them, and what your organization can do to stay protected.

Don't let your vendor relationships become your weakest link.

[Read The Entire Article](#)

Community Story

RI Women In Cyber Security (WiCys)

OSHEAN is proud to champion and support women in cybersecurity. We recognize that diverse perspectives are essential in tackling today's complex digital threats, and we are committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable industry where women can excel. By empowering women with the skills, resources, and opportunities they need, we are helping to build a stronger, more secure digital future for all.

On Tuesday, March 25th, OSHEAN will host the inaugural event for the newly established Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) Rhode Island Chapter. This gathering will feature WiCyS leadership as they share their mission and vision with chapter members and like-minded cybersecurity professionals who are passionate about Cybersecurity.

WiCyS, established in 2013, is now almost 11,000 members strong. Their mission is to build a robust cybersecurity workforce by facilitating recruitment, retention, and advancement for women in the field.

WiCyS is the premier organization with national reach dedicated to bringing together women in cybersecurity from academia, research, and industry to share knowledge, experience, networking and mentoring, established in 2012.

[Visit WiCys](#)

Board Member Spotlight

Jacques Laflamme



We're proud to spotlight Jacques Laflamme, CISSP - Chair of the OSHEAN Board and a dedicated leader in IT and cybersecurity with a career spanning more than two decades across higher education and global enterprise environments.

Jacques served most recently as the Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer at New England Institute of Technology (NEIT), where he led a comprehensive portfolio of IT services, cybersecurity initiatives, cloud transformations, and infrastructure strategies. Under his leadership, NEIT made significant advancements in its technology ecosystem, including large-scale migrations, security framework adoption, and the development of modern learning spaces such as an E-Sports arena and hybrid-ready classrooms.

Prior to NEIT, Jacques held several senior leadership roles at Harvard University, overseeing critical network operations and large-scale connectivity initiatives, including support for research computing, Internet2, and global IP infrastructure. His early career also includes directing global network engineering at Thomson Reuters.

Known for his ability to bridge technical expertise with executive vision, Jacques is deeply committed to delivering solutions that drive operational efficiency and exceptional end-user experiences. His strategic insight, strong communication skills, and passion for innovation continue to shape the future of technology in higher education and beyond.

We're honored to have Jacques leading our Board and contributing his deep knowledge and steady leadership to support OSHEAN's mission of delivering secure, reliable, and forward-thinking solutions to our member institutions.

OSHEAN Is Hiring

Help Us Spread The Word

OSHEAN is growing - and we're looking for passionate, dedicated professionals to join our team! If you're committed to supporting community anchor institutions and thrive in a collaborative environment, we encourage you to explore our open positions, including **Staff Accountant**, **Member Services Representative**, and **Systems Administrator**.

Know someone who would be a great fit? Share the listings with your network and help us find our next team members!

[View Job Openings](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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25
MAR



WiCyS Rhode Island Affiliate | Kickoff Event

OSHEAN 301 Metro Center Blvd. - Suite 203, Warwick, RI

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31
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3 Days

NERCOMP 2025 Annual Conference

Rhode Island Convention Center

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24
APR



2 Days

Dirigo 2025 Leadership Challenge Workshop

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