



## The Download with Dave

I welcome you to the second edition of Beacon Bits with a huge shoutout to my alma mater, URI.

I have the pleasure of visibility into the national research community through our work with Internet 2 and the Quilt so the significance of their achieving R1 status is not lost on me! Please take note of the details in the article as it affects all of us here.

Second, I am so pleased to connect you with a group I am quite fond of, [Rhode Island Leaders in Technology \(RILIT\)](#). For the past few years, my Friday morning coffee has been coupled with an online conversation with colleagues, now friends, across the state. We talk about everything from the latest cybersecurity breaches, business tools to leadership strategy and chicken recipes. This group has some OSHEAN members but is inclusive of a myriad of the state's best technology thinkers and doers across the institutional spectrum.

Recently, we have taken on some tangible volunteer projects to great result including the adoption of the RI Free Clinic, detailed in the article in this issue. You will be hearing more from this group, and I encourage you to check us out at the above hyperlink.

Cheers,  
Dave

**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.

## Member Story

### URI Achieves R1 Research Status

The University of Rhode Island (URI) has reached a significant milestone, earning the esteemed R1 research university designation. This places URI among the top 4.8% of universities nationwide, recognizing its high level of research activity and establishing it as a world-class hub for research and innovation.

This achievement not only elevates URI but also strengthens Rhode Island's position in the research and technology landscape, promising to attract investment, talent, and collaboration opportunities that will shape the state's future.

[Read The Article](#)

## 5 Questions

### with Jon Domen

What are the biggest network infrastructure challenges facing OSHEAN's members today? How can organizations prepare for evolving cybersecurity threats in 2025? We sat down with Jon Domen to discuss these pressing topics and more.

From routing security and cloud strategy to emerging trends in IT infrastructure, Jon provides expert insights on the future of networking.

[Read The Full Q&A](#)

## CISO Cove with Dave Phillips

### OSHEAN's Chief Information Security Officer

It's no secret that today, cybersecurity threats are more prevalent than ever. Businesses, regardless of size or industry, must take proactive steps to protect sensitive data and maintain trust—both internally and with customers. One of the most effective ways to achieve this is by adopting cybersecurity frameworks. When approached correctly, compliance with these frameworks strengthens our defenses against cybercriminals.

These frameworks serve as both a starting point for securing information and a way to assess the maturity of existing cybersecurity programs.

Take the NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF 2.0), for example. Its development involved input from hundreds of stakeholders across industries, government agencies, and academic institutions. Why wouldn't we leverage the collective knowledge, insight, and experience embedded in this or any relevant framework to strengthen our organizations?

Yet, the term "compliance" seems to trigger resistance. In my experience, whether building cybersecurity programs internally or consulting for organizations, I've noticed hesitation around the word and the efforts associated with it. Does "compliance" feel restrictive? Would "adoption" be a better way to frame it?

When I think about compliance with a cybersecurity framework, I see it as a blueprint for implementing and maintaining a strong security program—not just a checklist to meet the bare minimum. True adoption means striving for as close to 100% compliance as possible, continuously improving, and even progressing to more advanced frameworks like NIST 800-53 or 800-171.

What do you think? I welcome your thoughts and discussions on this and all things cybersecurity. Let's connect!

[Connect With Dave on LinkedIn](#)

## Member Story

### RILIT and OSHEAN Are Transforming Technology for the RI Free Clinic

The Rhode Island Free Clinic is getting a much-needed IT upgrade, thanks to a collaboration between RILIT and OSHEAN. This volunteer-driven initiative is overhauling the clinic's wireless infrastructure, security protocols, and IT systems - ensuring better patient management, data security, and connectivity for the 10,000+ visits the clinic handles each month.

By uniting technology experts to support a vital community resource, this project is setting a new standard for how IT can transform healthcare access.

[Learn More About The Project](#)

## Employee Spotlight



We're thrilled to announce that Dave Phillips has joined OSHEAN as our new Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)!

With over 25 years of experience in cybersecurity and technology leadership, Dave will play a pivotal role in building the foundation of our new cybersecurity office, which will grow to include a dedicated team focused on safeguarding our members' networks and data.

Dave has a proven track record of implementing cutting-edge security frameworks and leading high-performing teams, and his expertise will help us address the ever-growing needs of our members' cybersecurity.

We're excited to have him on board to lead this critical initiative and help OSHEAN continue delivering innovative, secure, and reliable solutions to our community anchor institutions.

Join us in giving Dave a warm welcome!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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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

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

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301 Metro Center Blvd., Suite 302  
Warwick, RI 02886  
(401) 398-7500 | [info@oshean.org](mailto:info@oshean.org)



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