SANS | GIAC CERTIFICATIONS

SANS Network Security 2026

September 21–26, 2026
Las Vegas, NV

PROGRAM GUIDE

#SANSNetworkSecurity @SANSInstitute

SANS NETWORK SECURITY 2026

Welcome Reception

Monday, September 21 | 6:30–8:00 PM

Apollo Pool (PROMENADE – GROUND LEVEL)

Kick off Network Security 2026 at the Welcome Reception. Grab a drink, dig into a great spread of food, and connect with fellow cybersecurity professionals, SANS faculty, and industry peers as the event begins. Swap insights, talk through today's threat landscape, and start building relationships that'll carry you through the week.

Develop and practice real-world skills to be prepared to defend your environment.

CORE NETWARS

Thursday, Sept 24 & Friday, Sept 25 | 6:30–9:30 PM

Roman II/IV (PROMENADE)

DFIR NETWARS

Thursday, Sept 24 & Friday, Sept 25 | 6:30–9:30 PM

Florentine I (PROMENADE)

All students who registered to attend a course at SANS Network Security 2026 are eligible to play NetWars for FREE. Space is limited. Please register for NetWars through your SANS Account Dashboard.

Extend Your Training

SANS OnDemand

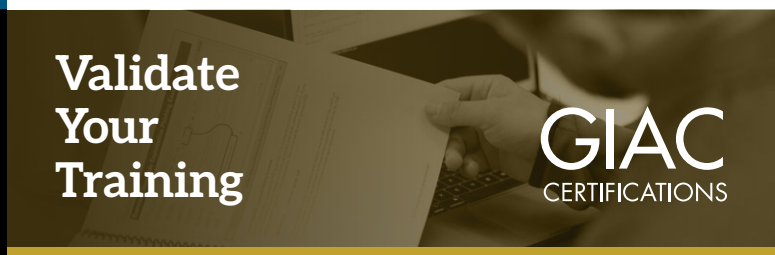
Add OnDemand Extended Access to your course.

Extend Your Training Experience with an OnDemand Bundle

- 120 days of supplemental online review
- 24/7 online access to your course lectures, materials, quizzes, and labs
- Subject-matter-expert support to help you increase your retention of course material

OnDemand Extended Access price: $999

sans.org/ondemand/extendedaccess



Validate Your Training

GIAC CERTIFICATIONS

Add a GIAC Certification attempt to your course.

Get Certified with GIAC Certifications

- Distinguish yourself as an information security leader
- 30+ GIAC cybersecurity certifications available
- Two practice exams included
- Four months of access to complete the attempt

GIAC Certifications Bundle price: $999

giac.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Venue

Caesars Palace
3570 Las Vegas Blvd. South | Las Vegas, NV 89109

Event Check-In | Badge & Courseware Distribution

Location: Promenade Foyer (PROMENADE)

Sunday, September 20 . . . . . 4:00–6:00 PM
Monday, September 21 . . . . . 7:00–8:30 AM

Registration Support

Location: Registration Desk (PROMENADE)

Monday, Sept 21–Tuesday, Sept 22 . . . . . 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Location: Siena (PROMENADE)

Wednesday, Sept 23–Friday, Sept 25 . . . . . 8:00 AM–5:30 PM
Saturday, September 26 . . . . . 8:00 AM–2:00 PM

Course Breaks

Morning Coffee . . . . . 7:00–9:00 AM
Morning Break* . . . . . 10:30–10:50 AM
Lunch (ON YOUR OWN) . . . . . 12:15–1:30 PM
Afternoon Break* . . . . . 3:00–3:20 PM

*Snack and coffee to be provided during these break times.

Wear Your Badge

To confirm you are in the right place, SANS Work-Study participants will be checking your badge for each course and event you enter. For your convenience, please wear your badge at all times.

Photography Notice

SANS may take photos of classroom activities for marketing purposes. SANS Network Security 2026 attendees grant SANS all rights for such use without compensation, unless prohibited by law.

Parking*

Self-parking is available for $25 per day. This does not include in-and-out privileges.

Guests staying at the hotel will receive daily parking for $20 per day with in-and-out privileges.

Valet parking is $50 per day.

*Parking rates are subject to change.

Feedback Forms and Course Evaluations

SANS is committed to offering the best information security training, and that means continuous course improvement. Your student feedback is a critical input to our course development and improvement efforts. Please take a moment to complete the electronic evaluation posted in your class Slack channel each day.

Bootcamp Sessions and Extended Hours

The following classes have evening bootcamp sessions or extended hours. For specific times, please refer to pages 4–5.

Bootcamps (Attendance Mandatory)

LDR414: SANS Training Program for CISSP® Certification

SEC401: Security Essentials

SEC540: Cloud Native Security and DevSecOps Automation

SEC660: Advanced Penetration Testing, Exploit Writing, and Ethical Hacking

Extended Hours:

SEC504: Hacker Tools, Techniques, and Incident Handling

COURSE SCHEDULE

Time: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM (Unless otherwise noted)
NOTE: All classes begin at 8:30 AM on Day 1

Classes starting Monday, September 21

FOR500 Windows Forensic Analysis (6-DAY COURSE)
Ovie Carroll . . . . . Capri

FOR508 Advanced Incident Response, Threat Hunting, and Digital Forensics (6-DAY COURSE)
Mike Pilkington . . . . . Florentine I

FOR509 Enterprise Cloud Forensics and Incident Response (6-DAY COURSE)
Pierre Lidome . . . . . Florentine II

FOR572 Advanced Network Forensics: Threat Hunting, Analysis, and Incident Response (6-DAY COURSE)
Philip Hagen . . . . . Anzio

FOR577 Linux Incident Response and Threat Hunting (6-DAY COURSE)
Jim Clausing . . . . . Genoa

FOR578 Cyber Threat Intelligence (6-DAY COURSE)
Kevin Ripa . . . . . Florentine III

FOR585 Smartphone Forensic Analysis In-Depth (6-DAY COURSE)
Heather Barnhart . . . . . Florentine IV

ICS410 ICS/SCADA Security Essentials (6-DAY COURSE)
Justin Searle . . . . . Milano VI

ICS515 ICS Visibility, Detection, and Response (6-DAY COURSE)
Dean Parsons . . . . . Milano VII

LDR414 SANS Training Program for CISSP® Certification (6-DAY COURSE)
Seth Misenar . . . . . Neopolitan I
Hours: 8:30 AM–7:00 PM (Day 1); 8:00 AM–7:00 PM (Days 2–5); 8:00 AM–5:00 PM (Day 6)

LDR512 Security Leadership Essentials for Managers (5-DAY COURSE)
My-Ngoc Nguyen . . . . . Milano I

LDR514 Security Strategic Planning, Policy, and Leadership (5-DAY COURSE)
Mark Williams . . . . . Milano II

LDR519 Cybersecurity Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) (5-DAY COURSE)
James Tarala . . . . . Milano III

LDR553 Cyber Incident Management (5-DAY COURSE)
Steve Armstrong-Godwin . . . . . Milano IV

SEC401 Security Essentials (6-DAY COURSE)
Bryan Simon . . . . . Neopolitan II
Hours: 8:30 AM–7:00 PM (Day 1); 9:00 AM–7:00 PM (Days 2–5)

SEC502 Cloud Security Tactical Defense (5-DAY COURSE)
Kenneth G. Hartman . . . . . Neopolitan III

SEC504 Hacker Tools, Techniques & Incident Handling (6-DAY COURSE)
Joshua Wright . . . . . Milano V
Hours: 8:30 AM–7:15 PM (Day 1)

SEC522 Application Security: Securing Web Applications, APIs, and Microservices (5-DAY COURSE)
Dr. Johannes Ullrich . . . . . Livorno

SEC540 Cloud Native Security and DevSecOps Automation (5-DAY COURSE)
David Hazar . . . . . Salerno
Hours: 8:30 AM–7:00 PM (Day 1); 9:00 AM–7:00 PM (Days 2–4)

SEC545 GenAI and LLM Application Security (5-DAY COURSE)
Ahmed Abugharbia . . . . . Roman II

SEC549 Cloud Security Architecture (5-DAY COURSE)
Eric Johnson . . . . . Palermo

SEC555 Detection Engineering and SIEM Analytics (5-DAY COURSE)
Mick Douglas . . . . . Sorrento

SEC559 Identity Security for Cloud and Hybrid (5-DAY COURSE)
Maxim Deweerdt & Ethan Bowen . . . . . Milano VIII

SEC560 Enterprise Penetration Testing (6-DAY COURSE)
Jeff McJunkin . . . . . Neopolitan IV

SEC565 Red Team Operations and Adversary Emulation (6-DAY COURSE)
Jean-Francois Maes . . . . . Messina

SEC587 Advanced Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) Gathering and Analysis (6-DAY COURSE)
Matt Edmondson . . . . . Roman I

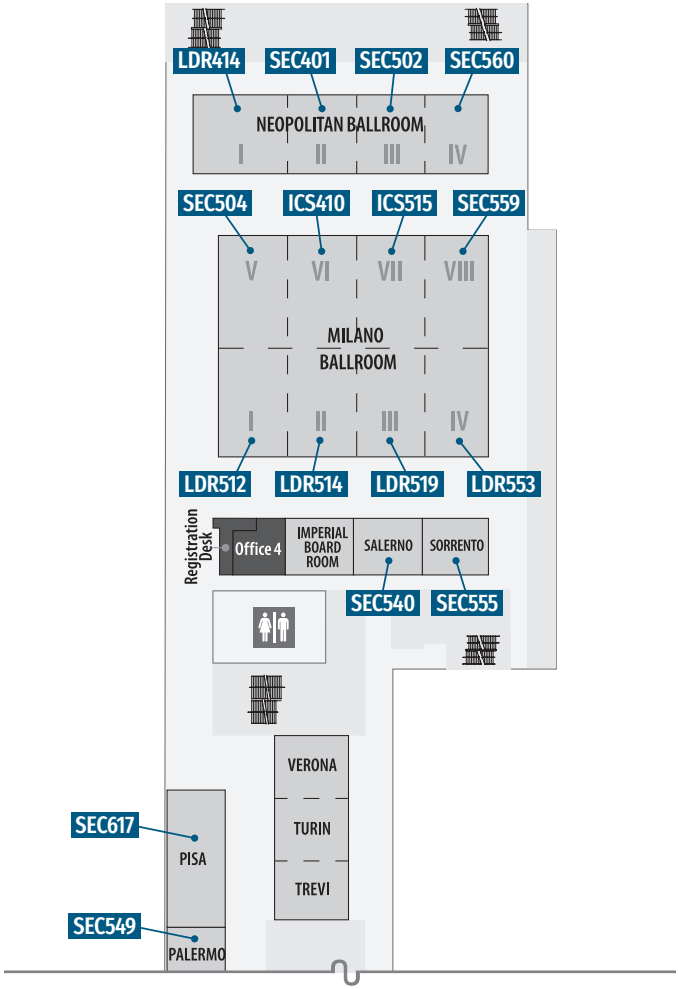
SEC595 Applied Data Science and AI/Machine Learning for Cybersecurity Professionals (6-DAY COURSE)
Nik Alleyne . . . . . Roman III

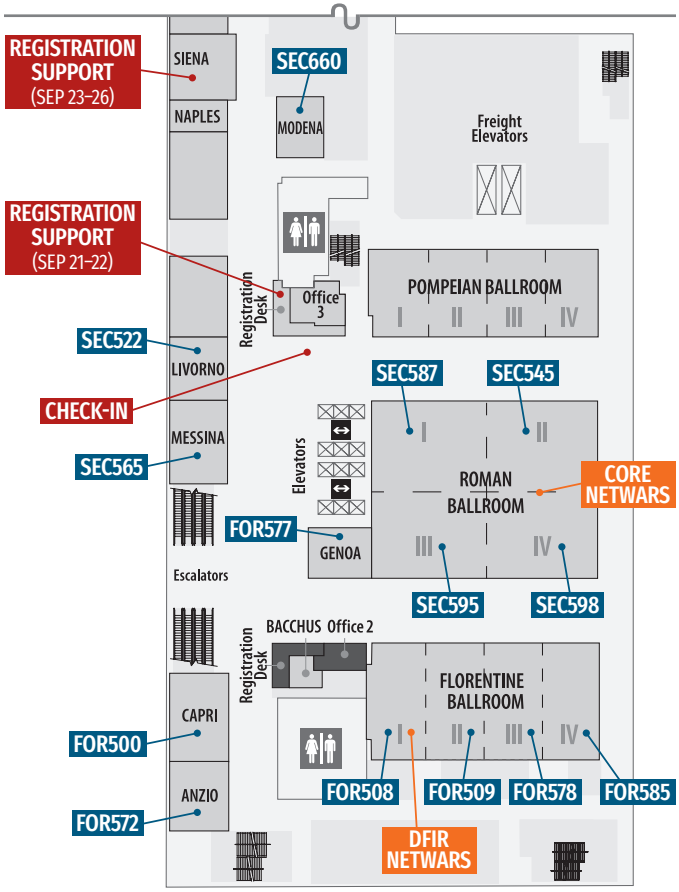
SEC598 AI and Security Automation for Red, Blue, and Purple Teams (6-DAY COURSE)
Jason Nickola . . . . . Roman IV

SEC617 Wireless Penetration Testing and Ethical Hacking (6-DAY COURSE)
Larry Pesce . . . . . Pisa

SEC660 Advanced Penetration Testing, Exploit Writing, and Ethical Hacking (6-DAY COURSE)
Stephen Sims . . . . . Modena
Hours: 8:30 AM–7:00 PM (Day 1); 9:00 AM–7:00 PM (Days 2–5)

HOTEL FLOOR PLAN





BONUS SESSIONS

Enrich Your SANS Experience!

Talks by our faculty and selected subject-matter experts help you broaden your knowledge, get the most for your training dollar, and hear from the voices that matter in network and computer security.

RECEPTION

Welcome Reception

DATE/TIME: **Monday, September 21 | 6:30–8:00 PM**
LOCATION: **Upper Deck of Apollo Pool**

Kick off Network Security 2026 at the Welcome Reception. Grab a drink, dig into a great spread of food, and connect with fellow cybersecurity professionals, SANS faculty, and industry peers as the event begins. Swap insights, talk through today's threat landscape, and start building relationships that'll carry you through the week.

RECEPTION

Keynote Reception

DATE/TIME: **Tuesday, September 22 | 5:15–6:00 PM**
LOCATION: **Pompeian Foyer**

Kick off the evening by connecting with fellow attendees over drinks and appetizers before heading into the exciting keynote presentation. This informal reception is the perfect opportunity to network, share ideas, and build new connections.

RECEPTION

Student Appreciation Lunch

DATE/TIME: **Wednesday, September 23 | 12:15–1:30 PM**
LOCATION: **Palace I** (EMPERORS LEVEL)

Join us for a Student Appreciation Lunch, a chance to step away from the labs and lectures and recharge halfway through the week. You've earned a solid meal and a moment to relax before diving back into the trenches.

FEATURED KEYNOTE

Offense at Machine Speed: How AI Is Reshaping the Threat Landscape

SPEAKER: **Stephen Sims, SANS Fellow**
DATE: **Tuesday, Sept 22**
TIME: **6:00–7:00 PM**
LOCATION: **Pompeian I/II**

This talk begins with a brief examination of recent breach data and the growing ecosystem of attacker tooling available through Dark Web marketplaces and Telegram channels, highlighting where OSINT and cyber threat intelligence teams should focus their monitoring efforts.

We will then explore why multi-factor authentication (MFA) bypass attacks continue to succeed despite widespread adoption, examining both the technical and operational factors that make these attacks so effective. The majority of the presentation will focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its rapidly expanding role in modern offensive security. We will analyze how attackers are leveraging AI to dramatically increase the speed, scale, and sophistication of attacks, while also examining AI systems themselves as an emerging attack surface.

The session will demonstrate how AI can be applied as both a SAST and DAST capability for discovering and exploiting zero-day vulnerabilities in web applications, as well as its growing role in binary exploitation. Offensive innovation has historically outpaced defensive adaptation, and the adoption of AI is accelerating this imbalance.

This talk provides practical insight into how the threat landscape is evolving and what security professionals must understand to keep pace.

BONUS SESSIONS

SANS@NIGHT

Top Network Attacks... and How to Fix Them

SPEAKER: **Jeff McJunkin, Principal Instructor**
DATE/TIME: **Wednesday, September 23 | 6:00–7:00 PM**
LOCATION: **Pompeian I/II**

Do you understand Active Directory? Your enterprise, just like the entire Fortune 500, depends on it. Come to this talk to learn the most common, over-powered attacks that hackers are using now, learn how to lock these attacks down, and perhaps most important — learn to detect when attackers are trying. Attackers don't get points for new attacks. Learn what they use, lock it down, and detect it.

SANS@NIGHT

Dr. Strangepwn or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the LLM

SPEAKER: **Larry Pesce, Senior Instructor**
DATE/TIME: **Wednesday, September 23 | 6:00–7:00 PM**
LOCATION: **Roman II**

I spent 25 years doing things the hard way. JTAG probes, logic analyzers, hex editors, late nights staring at Ghidra. When AI started creeping into security tooling, I did what any seasoned pentester would do: I crossed my arms and waited for it to prove itself. Then I let go of the wheel.

This talk is the story of how I went from skeptic to believer by building Plan R, an IoT-focused MCP server that gives AI agents direct access to real pentesting tools. We will walk through the architecture, the playbook-driven methodology that lets you teach an AI agent to hack new protocols and attack surfaces, and how iterating on playbooks turned a firmware-only tool into a multi-domain IoT pentesting framework spanning WiFi, BLE, network protocols, and beyond.

More importantly, we will walk through a real engagement where this approach uncovered vulnerabilities in a named vendor's IoT product, the messy reality of disclosing AI-discovered findings to a white box vendor, and what it taught us about the gap between what AI finds and what you can actually defend in a disclosure conversation. Part confessional, part technical demo, part cautionary tale.

Attendees will leave with a practical blueprint for building their own AI pentesting agents and a clear-eyed understanding of when to let go of the wheel and when to grab it back.

SANS@NIGHT

Why Your Ransomware Plan Is Wrong: Incident Command Lessons from Arrakis

SPEAKER: **Steve Armstrong-Godwin, Principal Instructor**
DATE/TIME: **Wednesday, September 23 | 7:00–8:00 PM**
LOCATION: **Roman III**

Your incident response plan is lying to you. Not deliberately—it just hasn't met the incident yet. Steve unpicks the gap between the plan your board signed off and the ransomware incident your team is actually fighting at three in the morning.

The spice must flow, the business must keep running, and somewhere between those two truths sits an incident commander trying very hard not to pull their hand out of the pain box.

This is a Dune-themed working session on the habits, instincts, and small acts of discipline that separate incident commanders who hold the line from those who panic-pay the ransom by lunchtime. Bring your runbooks. Leave the blue pill at the door. The worm is already coming.

SANS@NIGHT

Off the Clock: Using AI to Analyze Stocks, Real Estate, and Other Bad Decisions

SPEAKER: **Matt Edmondson, Senior Instructor**
DATE/TIME: **Wednesday, September 23 | 7:00–8:00 PM**
LOCATION: **Roman IV**

You came here to talk about security. Good news, this talk isn't about that. Here's the thing. It doesn't matter whether you're offense, defense, management, forensics, or something in between, we've all got two things in common. First, we know AI is powerful. Second, we all have investments, and every one of us would like them to do a little better.

For a while now, I've been leaning hard on AI to analyze my own investments. Stocks, real estate, and a handful of alternative plays. And honestly, the results have been good enough that I figured they were worth sharing.

In this talk I'll show you the actual techniques I'm using, walk through some real results, and hand you things you can go try the minute you get back to your hotel room. I'm not a financial advisor and I'm not here to sell you anything. I'm a security guy who got curious, pointed AI at his portfolio, and liked what happened. No theory, no vendor pitch, just real-world stuff for pointing AI at something that affects every single one of us, which is our money.

Take a break from security for an hour and let's talk about something fun.

BONUS SESSIONS

SPECIAL EVENT

Ask an Advisor: Your Next Course, Mapped Out

DATE/TIME: **Thursday, September 24 & Friday, September 25**
8:30 AM–3:30 PM
LOCATION: **Registration Desk**

Not sure what to take next? Stop by and talk it through with Scott Hubert, SANS Customer Success Expert. Bring your current cert path, your team's skill gaps, or just a general "what's next" question. Scott will help map a training pathway that fits where you're headed. He'll also be showing a few new tools SANS is building to make course selection and skill development easier. Drop-ins welcome, no pitch, just planning!

SANS@NIGHT

Cybersecurity Without the Chaos: A Step-by-Step Roadmap

SPEAKER: **James Tarala, Senior Instructor**
DATE/TIME: **Thursday, September 24 | 6:00–7:00 PM**
LOCATION: **Pompeian I/II**

Balancing the scales between safeguarding information assets and enabling business growth demands not just technical acumen but a strategic mindset. This presentation is tailored to demystify the complexities of cybersecurity risk management, offering actionable insights and practical strategies for CISOs and cybersecurity leaders.

Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how to assess their organization's current cybersecurity posture, identify gaps against their target state, and develop targeted plans to advance their cybersecurity maturity.

Join us to learn how to turn the theoretical aspects of cybersecurity into a repeatable, annual cycle that aligns with your organization's strategic goals and operational needs.

Whether you're looking to refine your organization's cybersecurity strategy or seeking practical tips on managing cyber risks more effectively, this webcast is designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to elevate your organization's cybersecurity posture. Perfect for CISOs, cybersecurity leaders, and anyone involved in managing cybersecurity practices, "Cybersecurity Without the Chaos: A Step-by-Step Roadmap" is your guide to understanding and implementing a robust cyber risk management program.

SPECIAL EVENT

CORE NETWARS

Tournament: Core NetWars

DATE/TIME: **Thu, Sept 24 & Fri, Sept 25 | 6:30–9:30 PM**
LOCATION: **Roman II/IV**

The most comprehensive of the NetWars ranges, this ultimate multi-disciplinary cyber range powers up the most diverse cyber skills. This range is ideal for advancing your cybersecurity prowess in today's dynamic threat landscape. The winning team and the top five solo players from every Core NetWars tournament throughout the year are offered a chance to compete in the annual SANS Core NetWars Tournament of Champions.

INTERACTIVE SCENARIO: SANS students are deployed to BLOCCORP, a global media giant built on toys, streaming, gaming, and AI. As strange activity spreads across its infrastructure, they uncover compromised systems, vulnerable AI models, rogue IoT devices, and reckless automation. Can they expose BLOCCORP's hidden agenda and stop its AI-driven ambitions before the damage is done?

All students who registered to attend a course at SANS Network Security 2026 are eligible to play NetWars for FREE. Please register for NetWars through your SANS Account Dashboard.

SPECIAL EVENT

DFIR NETWARS

Tournament: DFIR NetWars

DATE/TIME: **Thu, Sept 24 & Fri, Sept 25 | 6:30–9:30 PM**
LOCATION: **Florentine I**

Focused on digital forensics, incident response, threat hunting, and malware analysis, this tool-agnostic approach covers everything from low-level artifacts to high-level behavioral observations.

INTERACTIVE SCENARIO: As a DFIR specialist, you are provided with evidence files from a series of mysterious compromised systems and conventional computing environments. Your mission? Use your DFIR skills to shed light on attack vectors, indicators of compromise, and other evidence needed to resolve the incident.

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SAVE THE DATE

SANS Network Security 2027
is returning to Las Vegas
September 27–October 2, 2027

Upcoming SANS Training Events

DC Metro September	Bethesda, MD	Hybrid	Sep 28–Oct 3
Miami	Coral Gables, FL	Hybrid	Oct 26–31
San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	Hybrid	Nov 2–7
Raleigh	Raleigh, NC	Hybrid	Nov 2–7
Dallas	Dallas, TX	Hybrid	Dec 7–12
Cyber Defense Initiative®	Washington, DC	Hybrid	Dec 14–19
Live Online: Jan 2027		Virtual (ET)	Jan 11–16
Stay Sharp: Jan		Virtual (ET)	Jan 19–21
Nashville	Nashville, TN	Hybrid	Feb 1–6
Rockville	Rockville, MD	Hybrid	Feb 22–27
Las Vegas	Las Vegas, NV	Hybrid	Feb 22–27
Seattle	Seattle, WA	Hybrid	Mar 15–20
SANS 2027	Orlando, FL	Hybrid	Apr 12–17
Chicago	Chicago, IL	Hybrid	Apr 26–May 1
Security West	San Diego, CA	Hybrid	May 10–15
Baltimore	Baltimore, MD	Hybrid	May 17–22
Austin	Austin, TX	Hybrid	Jun 21–26
SANSFIRE	Washington, DC	Hybrid	July 12–17
Network Security	Las Vegas, NV	Hybrid	Sep 27–Oct 2