

# JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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**2. CISA, UK NCSC, and FBI Issue Joint Guidance to Strengthen OT Security**

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## 1. CISA PUBLISHES PQC PRODUCT CATEGORIES TO GUIDE FEDERAL ADOPTION

CISA published a list of technology categories to support post-quantum cryptography adoption across federal systems. The guidance helps agencies plan encryption transitions in preparation for quantum-era threats.

🔗 Sources: <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/cisa-releases-product-categories-list-propel-post-quantum-cryptography-adoption-pursuant-president>



## 2. CISA, UK NCSC, AND FBI ISSUE JOINT GUIDANCE TO STRENGTHEN OT SECURITY

CISA, the FBI, and the UK NCSC issued shared principles to reduce cyber risks in operational technology environments. The guidance promotes alignment with global security standards and stronger IT-OT collaboration.

🔗 Sources: <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/cisa-uk-ncsc-fbi-unveil-principles-combat-cyber-risks-ot>

## 3. AMAZON WARNS OF ONGOING CRYPTOMINING CAMPAIGN USING HACKED AWS ACCOUNTS

Amazon's AWS GuardDuty team reports an active cryptomining campaign targeting EC2 and ECS workloads using compromised IAM credentials. Threat actors begin mining within minutes of access, often using malicious Docker images with significant pull counts.



This activity presents operational and financial risks to government cloud environments.

🔗 Source: <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/amazon-ongoing-cryptomining-campaign-uses-hacked-aws-accounts/>



## 4. CISA RETIRES 10 EMERGENCY DIRECTIVES AS PART OF CYBERSECURITY EVOLUTION

CISA has retired ten Emergency Directives after required actions were completed or absorbed into ongoing vulnerability management programs. This marks a shift toward long-term federal cybersecurity operations.

🔗 Sources: <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/cisa-retires-ten-emergency-directives-marking-era-federal-cybersecurity>

## 5. REACT2SHELL EXPLOITS FLOOD THE INTERNET FOLLOWING DISCLOSURE

Following public disclosure of CVE-2025-55182, a critical remote code execution vulnerability in React Server Components, researchers observed widespread exploitation dubbed "React2Shell."

The flaw impacts React, Next.js, and related frameworks, with attackers deploying cryptominers, infostealers, and backdoors shortly after release.

🔗 Source: <https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/react2shell-exploits-flood-internet-attacks-continue>



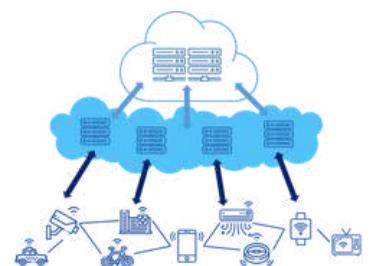
## 6. SMS PHISHING CAMPAIGNS EXPAND TO TAX REFUNDS AND REWARDS SCAMS

China-based phishing groups have expanded large-scale SMS phishing operations, now using lures involving tax refunds, mobile rewards points, and fake retail offers. Thousands of domains have been registered to impersonate major brands and carriers. Stolen payment data is rapidly converted into Apple and Google mobile wallets, increasing fraud risk.

🔗 Source: <https://krebsonsecurity.com/2025/12/sms-phishers-pivot-to-points-taxes-fake-retailers/>

## 7. NETWORK EDGE DEVICES REMAIN A PRIME INITIAL ACCESS VECTOR

CISA and industry reporting continue to highlight firewalls, VPNs, and exposed edge devices as preferred entry points for both nation-state and criminal actors—particularly when firmware is outdated or management interfaces are internet-facing.



🔗 Reference: <https://www.cisa.gov/known-exploited-vulnerabilities-catalog>

# DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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## NASCIO 2026 Priorities: A Thought Leadership Perspective

NASCIO's 2026 State CIO priorities reflect an evolving public sector technology landscape where artificial intelligence, cloud adoption, cybersecurity, and modernization are increasingly interconnected. As AI rises to the top of the priority list, state CIOs are emphasizing governance, data readiness, and workforce capability alongside innovation.



At the same time, cybersecurity, identity management, and risk mitigation remain foundational, ensuring trust and resilience as systems modernize and migrate to cloud environments. Continued focus on modernization, digital services, and accessibility highlights a broader commitment to efficient, secure, and citizen-centered government. Together, these priorities underscore a strategic approach that balances emerging technologies with strong governance, fiscal discipline, and long-term sustainability.

For more details, please visit the below link:

<https://www.nascio.org/resource-center/resources/state-cio-top-ten-policy-and-technology-priorities-for-2026/>

## CMS Announces \$50 Billion in Awards to Strengthen Rural Health in All 50 States

The CMS announced that all 50 states will receive awards from a new \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program aimed at strengthening health care in rural communities. Beginning in 2026, states will receive first-year funding—averaging about \$200 million—to expand access to care, support rural health workforces, modernize facilities and technology, and foster innovative care models. The initiative reflects a long-term federal commitment to improving rural health infrastructure, access, and outcomes over the next five years.

CMS designed the awards to help states strengthen multiple aspects of rural health systems:



**Expand Access & Workforce Development –** Funding supports training, recruitment, and retention for clinicians in underserved rural areas, aligning with broader goals to address workforce shortages.

**Modernize Infrastructure & Technology –** Awards support adoption of telehealth, remote monitoring, and interoperable digital systems, which improve care delivery while enhancing equity.



**Care Delivery Innovation –** States can pilot new care models, integrate data platforms, and strengthen emergency services and chronic condition management.

**Cybersecurity & Data Sharing –** Investment in secure, interoperable health IT aligns with long-term resilience and coordination across disparate rural clinics and hospitals.



For more details, please visit the link:

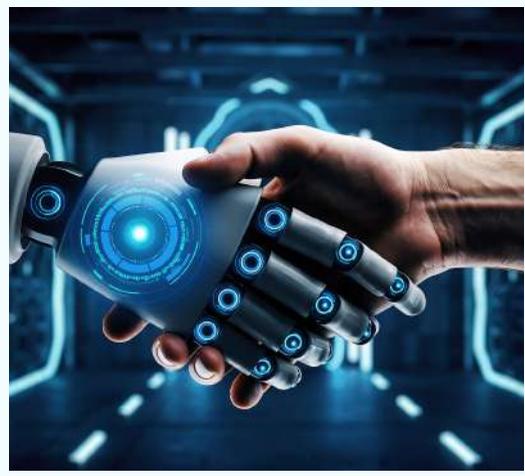
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-50-billion-awards-strengthen-rural-health-all-50-states>

## New York Names New Leaders to C-Level AI and Digital Roles

New York State has appointed Eleonore Fournier-Tombs as its new chief AI officer and Stephen Graham as chief digital officer, signaling a more coordinated approach to artificial intelligence and digital services across government. Fournier-Tombs will lead efforts to manage and expand AI use statewide, focusing on governance, adoption, training, and ethical implementation, while Graham will work to modernize online government services and improve user experience. These leadership changes reflect a broader emphasis on strategic AI policy and digital transformation in state government.

For more details, please visit the link:

<https://www.govtech.com/workforce/new-york-names-new-leaders-to-c-level-ai-and-digital-roles>



## Community-First AI Infrastructure:

### What Local Governments Should Know

AI infrastructure is no longer just a technology issue. Datacenters require power, water, land, and long-term planning, placing local governments at the center of these decisions. Microsoft's Community-First AI Infrastructure initiative outlines a framework focused on protecting public resources, supporting local workforce development, ensuring full tax contributions, and building long-term community trust as AI infrastructure expands.

Read more: <https://globalsolgroup.com/blog-post/community-first-ai-infrastructure-what-local-governments-should-know/>



Global Solutions Group (GSG), we bring extensive experience in delivering top-tier AI Enabled Solutions, IT Managed Services, Cybersecurity and Digital Transformation services to State, Local and Educational (SLED) and Federal agencies. Our portfolio includes over 120 active projects and partnerships with 100+ state and local government entities, as well as 30+ federal agencies, including the U.S. DoD with Top-Secret Facility Clearance.

Check out brochure link to get more info about our services: [GSG Brochure Global \(globalsolgroup.com\)](#)

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