

**Title:** Ransomware: The New High Seas Piracy

**Speaker:** Ms. Maggie MacAlpine

**Date:** 11 April 2022

**Time:** 1200-1315

**Where:** Conolly Conference Room, C-138

**POC:** Mr. Frank Smith

### **Synopsis**

After the attack on Colonial Pipeline, the DarkSide ransomware gang posted an "apology" that bore striking resemblance to a similar mea culpa issued by arch-pirate Henry Every in the 17th c. The parallels do not stop there between modern day ransomware cartels and high seas pirates and privateers. This talk will explore those parallels in depth as well as postulate on what they might mean for defeating the scourge of ransomware.

### **Bio**

Maggie MacAlpine is a security strategist at Cybereason and one of the co-founders of the DEF CON Voting Village. Over the course of ten years spent in the field of cybersecurity, MacAlpine has been a contributing researcher on the "Security Analysis of the Estonian Internet Voting System" in partnership with the University of Michigan, co-author of the DEF CON Voting Village annual reports, and appeared in the HBO documentary "Kill Chain". She has been a speaker on cybersecurity threat at various conferences including DEF CON, the Diana Initiative, ShmooCon Hacker Conference, PacSec Tokyo and in presentations to Capitol Hill.