

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
MARCH 11, 2024 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

ITEM: **APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR TWO CITY ISD ENGINEERS TO ATTEND THE DEFCON 32 CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

RECOMMENDATION: **Adopt a Resolution Approving Out-Of-State Travel for Two City ISD Engineers to Attend the Defcon 32 Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada from August 8 –11, 2024**

SUMMARY:

Defcon is an international annual convention where cyber security engineers join together in workshops, events and talks to collaborate on cyber security. For over three decades this conference has hosted the largest network of individuals working together to enhance the procedures and tools used for cyber security. Staff will greatly benefit from the knowledge gained from information sharing and participation in the workshops and events.

This out of state conference aligns with the goals of enhancing the City's Cybersecurity posture while utilizing the latest technology to mitigate potential threats and malicious activities in the City's network systems. Staff is requesting City Council approval for out of state travel, enabling City staff to attend Defcon 32 in Las Vegas, Nevada, from August 8th through August 11th, 2024, with an estimated cost of \$5,000.

BACKGROUND:

Defcon 32 is an ideal environment for cyber security engineers to come together and learn about new products, technical advances, and the sharing of knowledge. This IT experience will feature new innovations in security, networking, and collaboration. Technology changes very fast, and it is critical that City ISD Engineers stay up-to-date on the latest developments in technology, how to properly utilize the technology, and how to secure the technology. City staff will learn from other organizations about what they are doing in their environments and how to better optimize the City's security infrastructure.

Defcon will feature a series of workshops, events, and talks to engage the engineers in a variety of ways on the innovations of technology regarding cyber security. These will be essential for City ISD Engineers to learn more about the latest technology, software and procedures for keeping the City's network secure and safe from potential malicious activities or threats.

Staff is requesting for City Council to approve the out of state travel for City staff to attend the Defcon 32 conference in Las Vegas, Nevada from August 8th, through August 11th, 2024, in the estimated amount of \$5,000.

APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR TWO CITY ISD ENGINEERS TO ATTEND THE DEFCON 32 CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

This out of state conference is recommended as it aligns with the City's objectives to bolster its cybersecurity posture by leveraging cutting-edge technology, enhancing the safety of the city's network systems against potential threats and malicious activities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

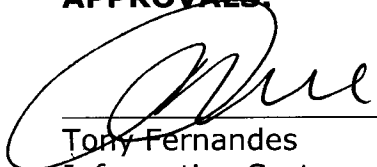
There are sufficient funds within the GL 1010-17-20-435-20-00 FY 24/25 for this training and travel expense.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution Approving Out Of State Travel for Two City ISD Engineers to Attend the Defcon 32 Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada from August 8th through August 11th, 2024.

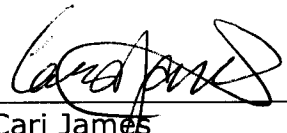
APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR TWO CITY ISD ENGINEERS TO ATTEND THE DEFCON 32 CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

APPROVALS:



Tony Fernandes
Information Systems Director

3-4-2024
Date



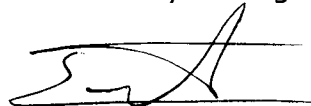
Cari James
Finance Director

3/4/2024
Date



Michael King
Assistant City Manager

3.4.2024
Date



Salvador Navarrete
City Attorney

2-28-2024
Date



Stephen J. Salvatore
City Manager

3.6.24
Date

RESOLUTION NO. 24 -

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LATHROP TO APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR TWO CITY ISD ENGINEERS TO ATTEND THE DEFCON 32 CONFERENCE IN LAST VEGAS, NEVADA

WHEREAS, Defcon is an international annual convention where cyber security engineers join together in workshops, events and talks to collaborate on cyber security; and

WHEREAS, this technical experience will feature innovations in networking, cybersecurity, and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, City Engineers learn from other organizations about their practices in different environments, enhancing their ability to optimize the City's network infrastructure and cybersecurity; and

WHEREAS, this out-of-state conference aligns with the goals of enhancing the City's Cybersecurity posture while utilizing the latest technology to mitigate potential threats and malicious activities in the City's network systems; and

WHEREAS, this training will be essential for City ISD Engineers to learn more about the latest technology, software and procedures for keeping the City's network secure and safe from potential malicious activities or threats; and

WHEREAS, staff is requesting City Council approval for out of state travel, enabling City staff to attend Defcon in Las Vegas, Nevada, from August 8th through August 11th, 2024, with an estimated cost of \$5,000 and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds within the GL 1010-17-20-435-20-00 for this training and travel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Lathrop does hereby approve the out of state travel to attend Defcon 32 in Las Vegas, Nevada from August 8th through August 11th, 2024.

The foregoing resolution was passed and adopted this 11th day of March 2024, by the following vote of the City Council, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:


ABSTAIN:

Sonny Dhaliwal, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Vargas, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Salvador Navarrete, City Attorney



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Frequently asked questions about DEF CON

What is DEF CON?

DEF CON is one of the oldest continuously running hacker conventions around, and also one of the largest.

How did DEF CON start?

Originally started in 1993, it was meant to be a party for members of "Platinum Net", a Fido protocol based hacking network out of Canada. As the main U.S. hub I was helping the Platinum Net organizer (I forget his name) plan a closing party for all the member BBS systems and their users. He was going to shut down the network when his dad took a new job and had to move away. We talking about where we might hold it, when all of a sudden he left early and disappeared. I was just planning a party for a network that was shut down, except for my U.S. nodes. I decided what the hell, I'll invite the members of all the other networks my BBS (A Dark Tangent System) system was a part of including Cyber Crime International (CCI), Hit Net, Tired of Protection (ToP), and like 8 others I can't remember. Why not invite everyone on #hack? Good idea!

Where did the name come from?

The short answer is a combination of places. There was a SummerCon in the summer, a HoHoCon in the winter, a PumpCon during Halloween, etc. I didn't want any association with a time of year. If you are a Phreak, or just use your phone a lot you'll note "DEF" is #3 on the phone. If you are into military lingo DEF CON is short for "Defense Condition." Now being a fan of the movie War Games I took note that the main character, David Lightman, lived in Seattle, as I do, and chose to nuke Las Vegas with W.O.P.R. when given the chance.

FAQ

DEF CON Sites



Forums



Groups



Media Server



InfoCon.org

The Goods



Official Swag



Source Knowledge

Conference Recordings

Past Media



Torrents Page



DEF CON Media Server



InfoCon.org

Well I knew I was doing a con in Vegas, so it all just sort of worked out.

There are several resources that will give you an idea of what DEF CON is all about.

DEF CON Press: through the prism of the media

DEF CON Groups: Local groups that meet

DEF CON Media Server: DC 1 to the present, captured

Google: always a good research starting point

Just remember, DEF CON is what you make of it.

When and where is DEF CON?

DEF CON is generally in the last week of July or first week of August in Las Vegas. DEF CON 32 will be held August 8th through August 11th, 2024.

Many people arrive a day early, and many stay a day later.

Isn't there a DEF CON FAQ already?

Yes, an unofficial one. It's quite humorous, sometimes informative, and DEF CON takes no responsibility for its content. It is archived [here](#).

What are the rules of DEF CON?

Physical violence is prohibited. Harassment of any kind is prohibited. We don't support illegal drug use. Minors should be accompanied by their parent(s) or guardian(s). Please refrain from doing anything that might jeopardize the conference or attendees such as lighting your hair on fire or throwing lit road flares in elevators. DEF CON Goons are there to answer your questions and keep everything moving. Hotel security is there to watch over their property. Each has a different mission, and it is wise to not anger the hotel people. Please be aware that if you engage in illegal activities there is a large contingency of feds that attend DEF CON. Talking about how you are going to bomb the RNC convention in front of an FBI agent is a Career Limiting Move!

You can view the DEF CON Code of Conduct at <https://defcon.org/html/links/dc-code-of-conduct.html>.

Is DEF CON cancelled?

No.

What is there to do at DEF CON?

DEF CON is a unique experience for each con-goer. If you google around you'll find dozens of write-ups that will give you an idea of what people have experienced at DEF CON. Trust write-ups more than media articles about the con. Some people play capture the flag 24x7, while many people never touch a computer at DEF CON. Some people see every speech they can, while others miss all speeches. Other activities include contests, movie marathons, scavenger hunts, sleep deprivation, lock picking, warez trading, drunken parties, spot the fed contest, the official music events. Because DEF CON is what the attendees make of it, there are more events than even we are aware of. Half the fun is learning what happened at DEF CON after the fact!

I'm not a hacker, should I go to DEF CON?

Many people have different definitions of what is a 'hacker'. I would recommend looking at previous years speeches, and write-ups from past attendees - this should give you a good idea if DEF CON is for you. This hacker FAQ might give you some insight into the matter as well. If you do not have any technical interests, DEF CON is probably not for you. Sure there is a lot of socializing you can do, but technology and hacking is the core of the con.

Do criminals go to DEF CON?

Yes. They also go to high school, college, work in your workplace, and the government. There are also lawyers, law enforcement agents, civil libertarians, cryptographers, and hackers in attendance. Ssshhh. Don't tell anyone.

What are Goons?

They are the staff at DEF CON. They have many roles including safety, speaker coordination, vendor room coordination, network operations, et cetera... Please try to be helpful to them if they make requests of you. If any goon tells you to move, please do so immediately as there may be safety issues they are attempting to address.

How can I help out or become a Goon?

The staff at DEF CON has grown organically. All positions have some degree of trust associated with them, so typically new goons are 'inducted' by friends of existing goons. There are many random points when goons need help and may ask people for help, generally for helping move stuff or other tasks that don't require high amounts of trust or unsupervised work. Just because you help out doesn't make you a goon. If you really want to be a goon, talk with one and see how much work they actually do (Hint: you may want to enjoy being at DEF CON, not working full-time at it). One year the network group got a new Goon when a networking engineer was needed, and he came to the rescue. The intent behind the goons is not to be elitist, but to have a network of trusted people who can help run the conference - please do not feel upset if you are not chosen to be a goon.

How can I help or participate?

DEF CON is not a spectator sport! Before the con, during, and after there are chances for you to get involved. Before the con you can read about the contests and maybe sign up for one like Capture the Flag. There are artwork contests for shirts and posters. You can practice your lock pick skills, or just get your laptop all locked down and ready to do battle. Organize your .mp3s. Check out the DEF CON Forums to see what other people are up to. If you want to create your own event, you can do that as well - you will not get official space or sanctions, but virtually every official event at DEF CON started out as an unofficial event.

I would love to see XYZ event, how do I make this happen?

Virtually all events at DEF CON were conceived by the attendees. The DEF CON forums are a great place for recruiting help for an event you want to put on, and making sure your efforts aren't being duplicated. If it doesn't require resources from DEF CON (space, namely) you generally don't have to ask anyone's permission. Most events are unofficial until they've been going on for a couple of years. Please let us know if you have an idea for an event, we may help facilitate or promote it. Email [suggestions at DEF CON dot org] to keep us in the loop.

What should I bring?

It depends on what you're going to do at DEF CON. This is discussed in quite some depth on the unofficial DC FAQ, as well as a thread in the DC Forums. You may want to bring fancy (or outrageously silly) clothes for the official Music events, on Friday and Saturday nights, where everyone shows off nifty attire.

How much do rooms cost, and how do I reserve a room?

The DEF CON 32 group room registration is evolving! We are working on room blocks at several hotels.

Currently we have a block at Sahara: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50769948>

Check the the DEF CON 32 venue page periodically for more as we add them

How much is internet access?

We are looking into this. Free (and possibly more dangerous) internet access is available in the convention area.

Will the hotels broadcast the speeches on their cable system?

DEF CON TV has successfully streamed all tracks to all the hotels in the past, and a couple of tracks out to the internet, for several years now. We are navigating a new venue and new hotels, so stay tuned. If we can, we probably will!

Will we have DEF CON branded poker chips?

You will have to attend DEF CON to find out.

Will conference attendees have entire floors of hotel rooms to themselves?

Probably not. Hotels have been very cooperative in attempting to centralize the DEF CON attendees, for their convenience and ours, but there will be non-DEF CON attendees in hotel rooms next to us.

This FAQ didn't answer my questions, or was unclear, how can I get further information?

Check out the DEF CON Forums to ask follow up questions.

DEF CON 32 THEME & STYLE GUIDE

Theme & Style Guide

Call Index

THEME: ENGAGE

The internet is our Global Commons and we rely on it in ways we couldn't have predicted a few decades ago. Unfortunately the internet has been slipping out of our hands and it is becoming more noticeable.

There are a lot of reasons for this. Tech monopolies doing tech monopoly

stuff is a big one. In the name of efficiency and control the internet has become more centralised and less resilient. The move away from open protocols and publicly maintained standards is another.

At some point the speculators demand to be paid, and the platforms we've built little universes around start removing services and raising prices. The apps begin to intrude on us more, leveraging our data for cash. Terms of Service and dark pattern updates. Everything gets worse fast.

Cory Doctorow calls this process 'enshittification'. He has a lot of good ideas about how to reverse it and you really should watch his DC31 presentation if you haven't. (On the Media Server, or YouTube)

Cory's talk resonated with a lot of us. The germ of this year's theme started to form. What is the opposite of enshittification?

How do we respond to this trend as a community?

We Engage.

To take back the internet we need to engage.

There are open alternatives to many of the services the App Lords are serving up. We can join them, use them and invite others. If they're not as robust or full-featured as we want, we can help improve them. If no open alternative exists, we can pool our talents and create one like our friends in the Cult of the Dead Cow did with Veilid.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kb1IKscAMDQ>)

If the rules need changing, there's a whole world of policy that is always looking for feedback. We encourage you to check out the Policy

Community at DEF CON.. We encourage you to get involved locally wherever you fit in. Engagement is the antidote to apathy.

Join a DEF CON Group and share what you know. Show someone you care about how to escape the walled gardens and echo chambers.

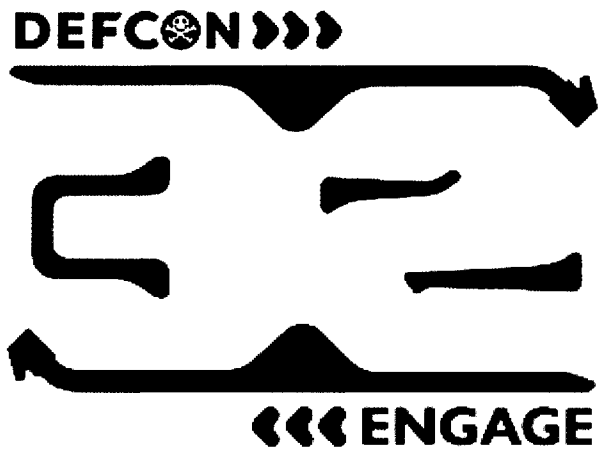
Share your engagement ideas with us at defcon.social or on the DEF CON Forums and we'll amplify. We'll highlight the coolest ideas and projects you share with us, both online and at DC32.

The important thing is to get involved, nothing blooms where nothing is planted.

We can give the future a fighting chance. We can help open solutions flourish. We can build public alternatives to privatized space. We can both consume culture AND create it. The future we want is open, secure and accessible. The walled gardens have had their day.

VISUALS

Logo



Fonts

SOFACHROME

Neuropol X

Lato

Palette

#FFAC11 | Pantone 7408C

#892BE1 | Pantone 527C

#DB1675 | Pantone 219C

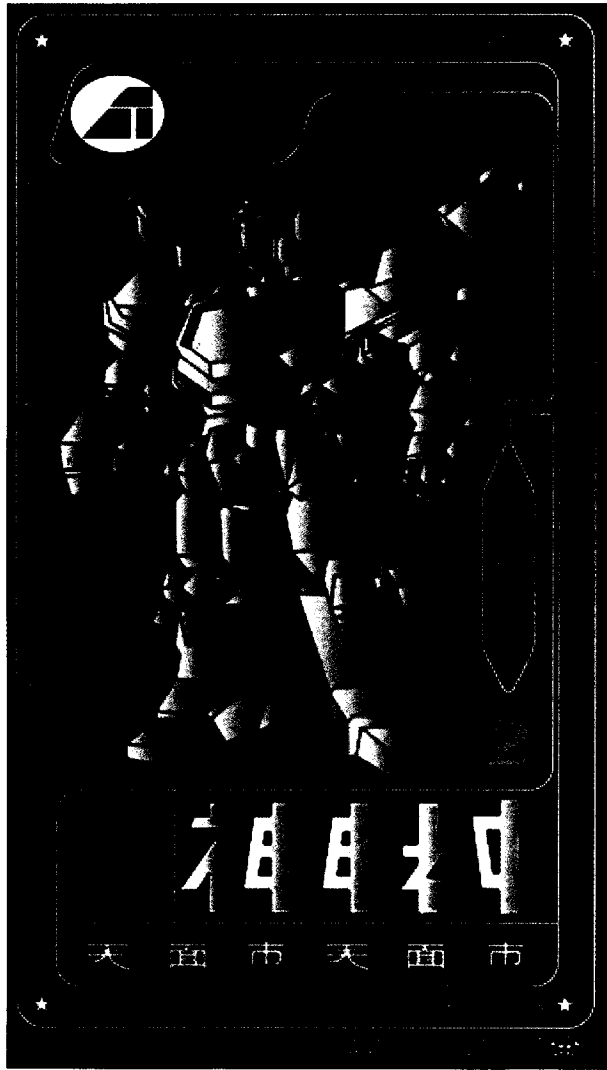
#0A7985 | Pantone 5483C

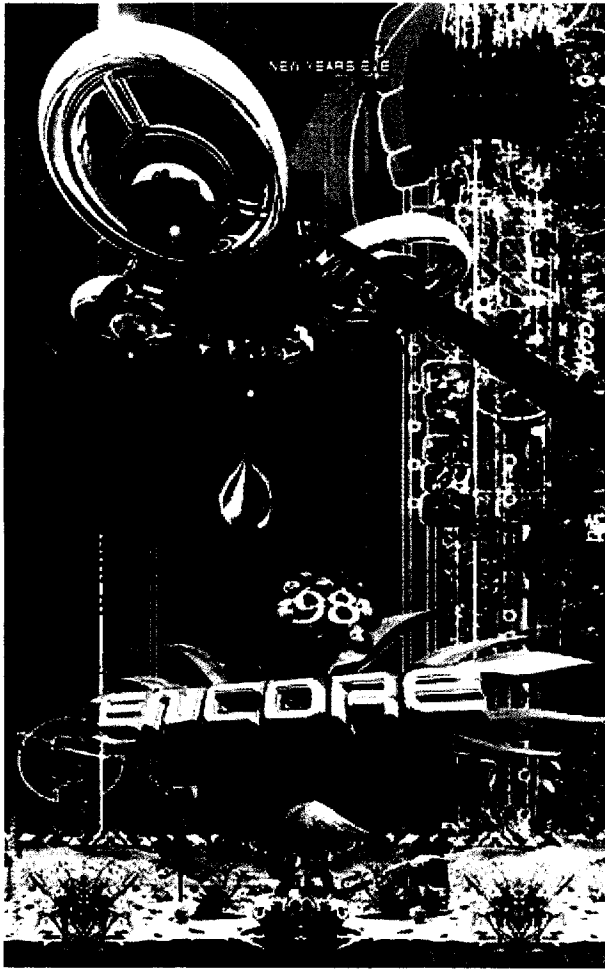
The visual vibes for this year are inspired by Mar Williams' art and what Tumblr tastemakers would call the 'Y2K Aesthetic'. A rave flyer left under

your windshield. The logo of a hip cybercafe with a T1. The turn of the century was electric with possibilities, both good and bad. We had to create a whole new iconography for the internet, and the energy spilled out everywhere. The future looked frictionless and holographic, crystalline and superclean.

The widespread adoption of the Web felt revolutionary. The potential of this new tool was boundless, and that feeling of limitless possibility was all over pop culture. That's the feeling we're trying to capture.

Sure, some shady developers want to turn our commons into a strip mall. They don't have to have the last word. When you're putting together your stickers, badges, and other goodies for DEF CON 32, keep this vibe in your heart.





HOMework

Media:

For books and movies to get you in the headspace, we're selecting works that center around the difference that can be made by a small group of determined people, even when there's already a little dystopia to deal with. Here's a book list to get you started.

Books:

Hacking Politics - How Geeks, Progressives, The Tea Party, Gamers, Anarchists and Suits Teamed Up to Defeat SOPA

Kim Stanley Robinson : New York 2140

also from KSR - Mars Trilogy, Aurora

Octavia Butler: Parable of the Sower

Becky Chambers: Wayfarers Series - The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet

Neal Stephenson - Seveneves

Movies:

Seven Samurai

Children of Men

Snowpiercer

We Live in Public

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