THE NYS FORUM

The NYS Forum – A Network in Action

For 35 years, the NYS Forum has been a unique **Information Technology Public/Private Partnership** membership organization with over 11,000 active member profiles drawn from state and local government, corporate entities and not for profit organizations. The Forum's topical workgroups, special events, trainings and workshops feature subject matter experts from the corporate, not for profit and government membership. Through this collaboration, public sector IT professionals learn about emerging trends and best practices, while corporate members establish relationships with State and Local IT professionals and learn about government IT needs and plans for the future, all in a **Vendor Neutral** environment. The value of this model became more apparent throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, as unprecedented strains were placed on government agencies and everyone had to quickly adopt new business practices. The Forum adapted to this challenge with new tools, new topics and new collaborations. Since the first lockdowns in March 2020, the results have been impressive.

By the Numbers

9853 government and corporate participants
75 Corporate member organizations
60 NYS Agencies
72 NYC Agencies
143 meetings and events since March 2020
8 Workgroups covering topic areas such as:

- Information Security
- Data Analytics
- Project Management
- IT Procurement
- Business Analysis/Architecture
- Business Innovation & Emerging Technologies
- O365 Community of Practice
- Toastmasters

Collaborations

- Digital Summit with GovTech
- Cyber Security Conference with the NYS ITS

Skills Trainings

- BA Bootcamp
- Project Management Fundamentals
- O365 Community of Practice
- Advanced Project Management
- CRM Dynamics
- Public Speaking & Leadership

What our members are saying

"I appreciate the NYS Forum for organizing this event and providing the resources after the session to review."
"This session was excellent. Information presented can be immediately applied in my work."
"Grateful for these Forum sessions."

The NYS Forum – Making Meaningful Connections

The Forum's private sector membership comes together as the **IT Corporate Roundtable (ITCR)**. The ITCR meets monthly in Albany and NYC to learn first-hand about trends, priorities and opportunities directly from State and Local government IT leaders and policymakers. Here are some of the organizations that addressed the ITCR since March 2020:

NYS Department of Labor
New York Statewide Financial System
New York State Board of Elections
NYS Senate
NYS School Board Association
Smart Cities – Cities of Schenectady and Syracuse
Capital District Transportation Authority
NYC Annual Budget Review
NYS Sheriffs' Association
NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
Dutchess County
New York Offshore Wind Alliance
NYS Public Housing Authority Directors Association
NYC Department of Transportation
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
NYC Department of Youth & Community Development
NYC Housing Authority
NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission
NYC School Construction Authority

The main work of the Forum is done through 8 **Workgroups** that are led by member volunteers. The workgroups are co-chaired by representatives from both the public and private sector and the members decide on the topics to be covered. Important connections are made at the workgroup level, with experts from different organizations submitting proposals to speak on topics of interest. Proposed presentations are reviewed to ensure that the speakers adhere to the foundational principle of vendor neutrality. ITCR members from 20 corporations presented on some of the following topics:

Planning, Procuring, and Managing Cloud Services
DoITT, Nutanix

Working from Home Series
NYS Office of ITS, NY Toastmasters, Trend Micro, CDW, Accenture LLP, Splunk

Return to the Workplace Series
Trend Micro, Checkmarx, KPMG, CDW, ServiceNow, KPMG, Splunk, Presidio, NTT Data, Tanium

Defending Your Code Against Cyber-Attacks
NYS Office of Information Technology Services

Software Development Life Cycle
Checkmarx

DevOps Impact on the Business Analysts Role
CPrime

Engaging and Managing a Remote Workforce
NYSTEC

Online Self-Defense
NYS Department of Financial Services

Zero Trust
SailPoint

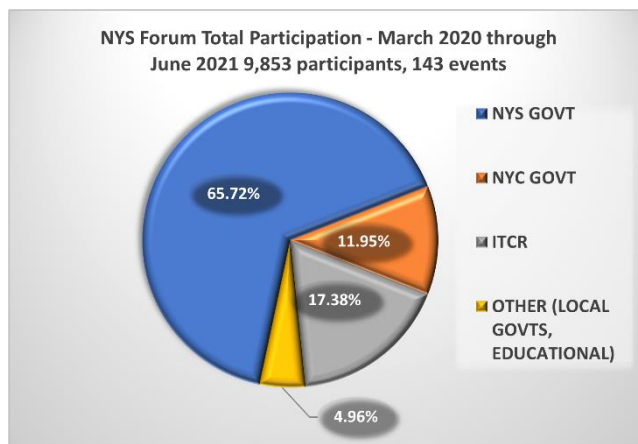**Ransomware**
NYSTEC, AWS, Fortinet, Rubrik, Presidio

The NYS Forum – Helping to Shape Public Policy

When the NYS Office of General Services released the long-awaited Information Technology Umbrella Contract solicitation in June 2021, the work of the NYS Forum ITCR was evident throughout the document. Over the prior 18 months, the ITCR partnered with the Business Council of NYS to provide written comments and facilitate roundtable discussions which identified specific areas of concern and suggestions for improvements. OGS came to the ITCR looking for practical, actionable input – and the ITCR delivered. Thanks to that working relationship, ITCR members were provided a preview of the solicitation and an explanation of how their suggestions were addressed prior to its release.

The work of the Forum did not end with the release of the solicitation. The IT Procurement Workgroup has since taken on a project to address additional issues associated with contractual terms and conditions that were identified during the process.

The NYS Forum - Adapting to Meet Member Needs

When **COVID-19** required suspension of in-person gatherings, the Forum moved activities entirely on-line and since March 2020, participation in Forum events increased significantly with over 9,800 members participating in 143 remote events. Soon after the shutdown the Forum developed a series of events to help our membership adapt to

NYS Forum Total Participation - March 2020 through June 2021 9,853 participants, 143 events

- NYS GOVT — 65.72%
- NYC GOVT — 11.95%
- ITCR — 17.38%
- OTHER (LOCAL GOVTS, EDUCATIONAL) — 4.96%

the reality of working from home. With the ITCR providing technical expertise we issued a Call for Presenters for a *Working from Home, The New Reality* series. Six of our ITCR members responded and the series reached over 1,300 of our members. When the membership started to return to the workplace another Call for Presenters was issued for a *Return to the Workplace* series yielding 9 responses from the ITCR. The Forum held 9 events with over 1,200 remote participants. And when Ransomware was in the news the Forum hosted a 3-event series with 5 ITCR members presenting. When the membership asked for better ways to communicate, the Forum modernized its website and added individual corporate profiles, a searchable ITCR directory, career corner, a live twitter feed with up to the minute tweets from ITCR membership, discussion boards and a past event video and resource archive.