27th ANNUAL ELECTRONIC FRONTIERS FORUM AT DRAGON CON: 2026 SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Time	Room	Name	Description
7:00pm	Hilton 313-314	Georgia Speed and Surveillance Camera Update for 2026	We'll take a look at both speed and surveillance cameras that have become ubiquitous on Georgia roads, their legality and Constitutionality, and whether any legislative fixes are in the works to rein in these and other "Policing for Profit" schemes. James Robert Dutton
8:30pm	Hilton 313-314	Killer Robots: Myth and Reality	We'll discuss drones, robots, and other police tech as it moves from the battlefields and borders to the interior of America's urban (and rural) landscape. Matthew Guariglia, Thomas Ward, Jeff Wright, Phillip Pournelle (moderator)
10:00pm	Hilton 313-314	The Science of Security	What keeps your messages safe? How do common software vulnerabilities work? Our panel of computer scientists and security experts will discuss how security works from a scientific perspective. We will talk about common attacks, cryptography, and how scientists study computer security. Andrew Hirsch, Isaac Sheff

Friday, September 4, 2026

Time	Room	Name	Description
10:00am	Hilton 313-314	Election Security Update for 2026	We'll discuss growing threats to election security including AI, and manipulation of underlying systems such as touch screens and tabulators. Ron Daniels (moderator), Dwayne K. Goetzel, Andrew Hirsch, Kevin Stallard
11:30am	Hilton 313-314	fightchatcontrol.eu: Chat Control in Europe	We'll discuss European Union-mandated scanning of private messages for illegal content, how scope creep could occur, and efforts to block such legislation before it goes into effect. Kurt Opsahl, Matthew Lane (moderator), Isaac Sheff
1:00pm	Hilton 313-314	Meshtastic, Meshcore, Reticulum, and Beyond	We'll take a look at where the mesh stands today, and what is on the horizon for the future of meshing around. Walter Hooper, Austin Lane, Scott M. Jones (moderator), Alan Barrow, Ted Wood
2:30pm	Hilton 313-314	Coding with Dignity: Leading & Crafting in the AI Era	AI can generate code, but people build products. Maintain the dignity of the craft by prioritizing intent and understanding over raw output. Will explore how managers should use AI to automate drudgery, not to replace the human empathy and mentorship that sustain a healthy engineering culture. Ben Matthews (moderator), Stephen Rouse
4:00pm	Hilton 313-314	The Fight Against Hyperscale Data Centers in 2026	While the fight against hyperscale data centers invading towns and neighborhoods continues, the political moment certainly has shifted compared to a year ago this time. We'll discuss how politicians are responding to the groundswell of opposition, and what remains as the movement progresses. Ron Daniels(M), James Robert Dutton, Andrew Greenberg
4:00pm	Hilton Crystal Ballroom	Marketing and Personal Branding in the Age of AI	We'll discuss how AI is impacting marketing and personal branding in the Internet age, and how to leverage new platforms while protecting your legitimate business interests. James P. Nettles, Courtney Lytle, TJ Mihill (moderator)
5:30pm	Hilton 313-314	Activism 101	It's easy to feel overwhelmed if you want to change things for better in the world. We'll discuss how to narrow your focus to what really matters while pursuing both self-care and the operational security needed in a surveillance-heavy world. Meredith Filak Rose, Sarah Malkin, Darren Humphrey, Andrew Greenberg (moderator), Abigail LP
7:00pm	Hilton Crystal Ballroom	Police Drones, License Plate Readers, Fusion Centers: Where It's All Headed	Technology is transforming how policing is done in America. In the rush to profits, are the basics of creating safe communities being forgotten, or enhanced? Ron Daniels, Matthew Lane, Greg Hodgin, Jon Padfield (moderator), Jeff Wright
8:30pm	Hilton 313-314	What Can Fiction Teach Us About Activism?	Science fiction and fantasy offer predictions of threats to our society, often decades ahead of the moment that they arrive. What can we learn from today's popular stories about tomorrow's real threats to everyday life? Meredith Filak Rose (moderator), Kevin Stuart Bankston, Sarah Malkin, Abigail LP, James P. Nettles
10:00pm	Hilton 313-314	WebComics	A behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to produce a successful web-based comic strip series, given by established webcomic artists. Bill Holbrook (moderator), Jennie Breeden, Hunter Cressall
11:30pm	Hilton 313-314	The Dark Knight on Trial: Challenging the Batman's Mass Surveillance	We'll discuss the legal issues of the city-wide surveillance system Batman employed, over Lucius Fox's objection, to find the Joker in The Dark Knight, while tying the issues at stake back to real-world legal and Constitutional concerns in the present-day U.S.A. Kurt Opsahl (moderator), Meredith Filak Rose

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Time	Room	Name	Description
10:00am	Hilton 313-314	Transhumanism, Post-Humanism, and the Delusions of Billionaires	We'll take a look at disturbingly anti-humanist tendencies and obsessions of some of the world's richest billionaires, the degree to which AI has fueled a post-human vision, and failed experiments at privatized governance such as Prospera Island. Kevin Stuart Bankston (moderator), Greg Hodgin, Sarah Malkin
11:30am	Hilton 313-314	Are 3-D Printers Protected by the Second Amendment?	Certain state governments have begun a harsh crackdown on 3-D printing and related technologies such as CNC, out of fear that such technologies can be used to build weapons. We'll discuss both First and Second Amendment issues, as well as mandated innovation. Cory Scott Rosenberger (moderator), Sarah Malkin
1:00pm	Hilton 313-314	Happy 30th Birthday for Section 230	Section 230 is often considered to be the First Amendment of the Internet, and is credited for allowing the creation of nearly all communications forums in use today. We'll discuss why it's still being blamed for everything wrong on the Internet, and why politicians still love to target it. Kurt Opsahl, Matthew Lane, Dwayne K. Goetzel (moderator), TJ Mihill, Heidi Tandy
2:30pm	Marriott A601-602 (4 hours)	Learn to Hack Workshop	Beginner hacker? Never tried hacking before? Try your hand at the following stations for 2025: 1) Lockpick mini-village; 2) Introduction to Hacking discussion; 3) Capture the Flag [dedicated wi-fi cyber range]; 4) Ask a Pentester. Unstructured— Come any time/leave any time during the event. Stephen Kraus(M), Dustin Smith, Professor Roger Whyte
2:30pm	Hilton 313-314	Parents or States: Who Decides How Much Social Media Time Is Too Much?	Social media bans and limitations are being rushed through state legislatures, usurping parental control and authority. What is driving the bans, are they effective, and do children actually have their own Constitutional rights?

			Meredith Filak Rose (moderator), Ron Daniels, Sarah Malkin
4:00pm	Hilton 313-314	Operational Security for Protestors	Going to a protest? Good for you! We'll discuss how to stay as safe and anonymous as possible while exercising your First Amendments rights to peacefully protest. Abigail LP (moderator), Bill Budington, Kevin Stallard, Darren Humphrey
5:30pm	Hilton 313-314	Hegseth vs. Anthropic: The Push to Remove All of the AI Safeties	We'll discuss the legal and ethical issues over the use of AI in a military setting, and how the government can use its power to bend corporate ethics to its will. Kevin Stuart Bankston, Dwayne K. Goetzel, Andrew Hirsch (moderator), TJ Mihill, Matthew Guariglia
7:00pm	Hilton Crystal Ballroom	Hacking 101	Hacking 101 returns for another glorious year! Just what is a hacker anyway? Culture, history, contacts, resources, and pointers for more info. Dustin Smith (moderator), Daemin Lee, Rich Gatz, Bill Budington, Xavier Ashe
8:30pm	Hilton 313-314	Drones as First Responders (DFR)	We'll discuss drone systems being sold and used to arrive at the scene of a crime or disturbance ahead of police officers, and whether they truly live up to their promises to enhance safety for all involved. Dave Maass, Thomas Ward, Jeff Wright, Phillip Pournelle (moderator)
10:00pm	Marriott A601-A602	Age Verification Legislation as a Threat to Privacy	We'll look at age verification mandates at the operating system level and elsewhere, whether they achieve a stated goal, and how they affect our privacy, given the current market-based norms of surveillance capitalism. Kurt Opsahl (moderator), Matthew Lane, Rich Gatz
10:00pm	Hilton 313-314	Retro Roadmap: Classic Video Gaming Beyond DRM and Licensed Access	As the industry goes all in on digital rights management (DRM), and Sony ends disc manufacturing in 2028, game ownership is shifting. Learn why players are turning to classics, and how to play them via original hardware, emulation, FPGA, and remakes. David Benedict
11:30pm	Hilton 313-314	Adult Web Sites in the “Flash Your ID” Era of Age Verification	We'll look at age verification mandates requiring the scanning and storage of physical ID for adult web sites, whether such legislation achieves any meaningful goal, and the risks and ultimate efficacy of providing such information. Catieosaurus, Andrew Greenberg (moderator), Dwayne K. Goetzel

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Time	Room	Name	Description
10:00am	Hilton 313-314	A Virtual Tour of Surveillance Technology at the US-Mexico Border	EFF's Dave Maass showcases research and reconnaissance of surveillance technology being sold and used to secure America's borders, and how some of these systems are making their way to America's interior. Dave Maass
11:30am	Hilton 313-314	Copyright 101	How does copyright work? Do you have to register to protect your rights? Can you do it yourself, or do you need an attorney? What do you do if you discover infringement of your own copyright? Courtney Lytle
1:00pm	Hilton 313-314	The Very Misguided Effort to Ban VPN's	Legislators pass age restrictions or other restrictions on social media, and then see their bans easily circumvented with Virtual Private Networks, or VPN's. Now they're rushing VPN bans into legislation, without considering how crucial VPN's are to basic privacy and security. Meredith Filak Rose, Matthew Lane, Amon Otis Poston, Abigail LP, Isaac Sheff (moderator)
2:30pm	Hilton	AI and Copyright for Creators	We'll discuss AI-related copyright issues, such as who owns AI-produced content, what happens if infringement occurs, and how responsibility for infringement is assigned between prompters and platforms. Meredith Filak Rose (moderator), Kevin Stuart Bankston, Courtney Lytle, James Robert Dutton, Kevin Stallard
4:00pm	Hilton 313-314	Defending YOUR Phone Against Cellebrite, Pegasus, GrayKey, etc.	We'll discuss strategies for protecting sensitive data on your phone from commercial solutions that are often used without warrants, or in legally warrantless situations such as at the border. Jennifer Helsby (moderator), Abigail LP, Bill Budington
5:30pm	Marriott A601-A602	De-Googling for Creators-How to Seize the Means of Production from Big Tech	We'll discuss moving away from Google platforms as a creator, to protect both privacy and expressive works from being used as training data for AI. Matthew Lane, Ken Mickles, Jennifer Helsby, Jon Padfield (moderator)
7:00pm	Hilton 313-314	Central Bank Digital Currency: Can They Just Turn Off Your Money?	We'll define Central Bank Digital Currency, how it works, how it differs from cryptocurrency, what has been banned in the U.S.A. versus in Europe and elsewhere, and how due process can be circumvented with centrally-controlled currencies. James P. Nettles (moderator), Kurt Opsahl, Isaac Sheff
8:30pm	Hilton 313-314	10 Rules for Dealing with Police Encounters	Knowing and asserting your rights along with common sense can greatly improve the outcome of any police encounter. This is a documentary from the now-shuttered organization, Flex Your Rights. A question and answer session will follow the film. Andrew Greenberg (moderator), Cory Scott Rosenberger
10:00pm	Hilton 313-314 (4 hours+)	Hacking 201	Q&A from our panel of experts; play “Stump the Hacker”! Dustin Smith (moderator), Rich Gatz, Bill Budington, Xavier Ashe

Monday, September 7, 2026

Time	Room	Name	Description
10:00am	Hilton 313-314	Police Surveillance As A Business Model	We'll discuss policing for profit, surveillance business models, and whether they can provide any real benefits to society. Matthew Guariglia, James Robert Dutton
11:30am	Hilton 313-314	Quantum-Safe Encryption Algorithms: Are They Really Necessary?	Quantum-safe encryption algorithms are being widely discussed, and we are seeing the first mandates and warnings going out, such as the warnings for older SSH keys. Is the threat real, or is this just hype and fear mongering? Jennifer Helsby, Isaac Sheff
1:00pm	Hilton 313-314	Surviving Ransomware	You've been hit by ransomware! Oh no, now what?? We'll go over your options for recovery, prevention strategies, and whether cyber insurance is at all helpful or useful in such cases. Rich Gatz, Xavier Ashe
2:30pm	Hilton 313-314	Banning ALL License Plate Readers in Georgia: Is It Possible?	Opposition to now-ubiquitous license plate readers is growing. Are statewide bans or restrictions possible, and would a driver's bill of rights be helpful, or is radical removal the best option? Jon Padfield, Cory Scott Rosenberger, James Robert Dutton (moderator)

Electronic Frontiers Forum at Dragon Con

Please rate our panels in the Dragon Con app!

Director: Scott M. Jones (email: eff@dragoncon.org) / Assistant Director: Michael Gokey
Volunteer Staff: Stacy Baldwin, Joey Brock, Charlie Jackson, Albert Jatho,
Benjamin Kasavan, Dustin Smith, Roger Whyte

Revised: 8/27/2026