

Digital Resilience Through Collective Care

Video Transcript

00:00:00:20 - 00:00:26:09

Amira

it's, really nice to be in space with you all today. My name is Amira Dalla. I use they them pronouns. I have been in privacy and security for over 15 years now, and I've existed at many different parts of it, from research, to advocacy to action planning to actual cyber resilience, within communities or organizations or locations.

00:00:26:11 - 00:00:59:13

Amira

So I've done a bit of a gambit throughout security. Thinking about processes, and frameworks for both people, and organizations and nations as a whole. In my everyday life, I work at Aspen Institute, which is a think tank. Thought leadership on their cybersecurity programing. And in doing that, I manage, Craig Newmark philanthropy, which is a philanthropy space that really focuses on cyber digital resilience, but also protecting our nation's core.

00:00:59:15 - 00:01:19:02

Amira

And so I'm integrated into these spaces, and I'm working with communities on the ground every day. So much of what I learned through my research and through work is that, and this is not an ideal scenario that has time has gone on in the threats have increased in this space. Our actions have actually decreased in the space.

00:01:19:04 - 00:01:44:05

Amira

So as individuals, we are doing less to protect and care for ourselves online. Even though the risks and the threats have increased, which is alarming for anyone person. But as a researcher in this space, extra alarming, because as you can imagine, this is not how trends usually go. Especially when it comes to things that are important, that I believe are important for us and our communities.

00:01:44:07 - 00:02:05:18

Amira

And so I started digging into all of this, and today we're going to talk about, how we build something like digital resilience that is grounded in both community, care, mutual aid and among other things. And looking at how we actually can reverse, what I think has been a colonial mindset around security being a one way street.

00:02:05:19 - 00:02:31:14

Amira

So something you need to do to protect yourself. And flipping that script on, actually, security is something we need to do to protect ourselves. And I'm going to talk a little bit more about that framework in a bit, but I just want to call out that putting, individuals

in the one way dialog is something we need to do for ourselves, I believe has been detrimental to how we've actually been able to take action.

00:02:31:16 - 00:02:50:08

Amira

And we see this online every day when we're sick, when we hear people saying, you need a VPN, you need to enact the security process. You need to pay for this X amount of thing versus the how do we actually do this together, and what does it mean to do that together? Those are the types of stuff we're going to talk through today, as a team.

00:02:50:10 - 00:03:21:08

Amira

But before we do that, let's just set the container that we're all in today as well. We are here to learn that is the goal and outcome of this process. And my request is that we do that collaboratively. In some ways, I have designed the next hour and a half. To actually be able to collaborate and talk and share and inform one another with our, our insights and perspectives.

00:03:21:10 - 00:03:46:11

Amira

And in some ways, I actually am going to ask you all to do so as well. So my request here is that jump in with me, and actually be able to participate in ways. And we'll chat a little bit more about the different ways you can do that. But to not shy away, to know that this is a space where we're all eager to collectively learn from each other along that way and share the things that we have brought our bringing in from others as well.

00:03:46:13 - 00:04:09:19

Amira

And with that said, I actually want to call out that, we represent ourselves in these conversations. So conversations should be based on the perspectives and and the experiences that you are bringing as an individual. But we acknowledge that actually our perspectives are, are also influenced by our ancestors, the communities that we are with and the movements we are a part of.

00:04:09:19 - 00:04:34:19

Amira

And I encourage you to also bring those in, but not talk about them as they are a monolith and that one perspective is everything within them as well. And the last thing that I really want to highlight for us today is that we are in a moment of turbulence. The hard thing about saying a moment of turbulence is that there is not one, one sole thing that I can point to as the cause and the root of the turbulence.

00:04:34:19 - 00:05:00:16

Amira

There's actually many things that are causing turbulence, for our communities and our spaces right now. So I am going to just pause there for a second. We're going to actually kick off with some cool action. So I am going to say Sarah is going to list up different pools at different times. So while you get that ready and before you press play on the first one, there will be three answers for each.

00:05:00:16 - 00:05:17:11

Amira

For what's going to happen is a statement is going to come up. And then I'm going to ask you all to participate in selecting which one is the best answer for you. To be completely transparent, I will not see whose answers are what. We will not search them in the back end or any form of recording of them.

00:05:17:13 - 00:05:38:16

Amira

This is just a gauge for all of us to understand where we are and we'll connect this back with some material later. Now, the reason why there's three, is because we all know this is the true and false. But if you've ever met an individual who is like, well, I want to select. True, but all of this also, this thing also prevented me from selecting true.

00:05:38:18 - 00:05:57:07

Amira

You were in the sure category. For sure category. So like, that is a yes. No. It means it could be a yes. It could be a no. There are depending factors. It also means you're unsure. It also means I don't know how to answer this. It means that we don't live in binaries, and things are layered.

00:05:57:09 - 00:06:09:22

Amira

So providing two options often just isn't enough. So feel free to leverage the share option when you need it. All right, so we are ready to kick off with poll number one.

00:06:09:24 - 00:06:36:07

Amira

Great. Okay. So the first question is community is important to me. This is where I'm going to ask you to put true false or sure or sure. More of a question mark there on the end. Okay great. Everyone's answered. So I'm going to I'm going to share this poll. But I'm going to tell you your own ingredients. You all believe community is important.

00:06:36:09 - 00:07:00:11

Amira

That makes total sense as to why you're all here today. So I am, I am not flags with that at all, but we're going to see a little bit about what that means later. Okay. So our poll number here. Let's get it up. The question is I think about how my apps actions impact others around me.

00:07:00:13 - 00:07:10:12

Amira

Question number two is now open. We want a true, a false or a sure.

00:07:10:14 - 00:07:35:20

Amira

Okay. Everyone's answers are and I'm going to share the results. No one should be surprised. We're all thinking about how our actions impact other people I get it. That's why this is here. All right. I promise we're going to get into a little bit more sticky situation, but it's great to see we're all in community. Question number three I understand the importance of collective care.

00:07:35:22 - 00:07:44:18

Amira

We'll just give it a second to whip this poll up.

00:07:44:20 - 00:07:50:20

Amira

We get to really come on collective care.

00:07:50:22 - 00:08:20:01

Amira

Sorry, I'm just seeing, poll to back up. So if we can get, poll number three.

00:08:20:03 - 00:08:22:12

Speaker 2

Oh, sorry. Can you see it now?

00:08:22:14 - 00:08:24:09

Amira

No, we can't see it yet.

00:08:24:11 - 00:08:30:21

Speaker 2

00:08:30:23 - 00:08:36:22

Amira

Okay. In Liverpool, what we're going to do is we're going to jump into chat.

00:08:36:24 - 00:08:38:01

Speaker 2

00:08:38:03 - 00:08:54:24

Amira

And if you are. Come. Oh, there we go. We got. We got number three. Don't worry about chat, all right? True false share energy.

00:08:55:01 - 00:09:00:13

Amira

We'll give it just 20 more seconds.

00:09:00:15 - 00:09:28:07

Amira

Okay, great. So I'm going to end this poll, and I'm going to share the results with you. We actually have most people jumping into the true category and a couple people in the share category. I wanted to just leave a second to allow anyone who heard true or share. To vocalize the their answer in this way.

00:09:28:09 - 00:09:40:07

Amira

Anyone want to come off me out.

00:09:40:09 - 00:10:08:17

Amira

Specifically, if someone is stealing brave enough, to tell us why this was a share for them, I'd love to learn more. As to what are the blockers and understanding what collective care is for people. And if you didn't do share, but you've got some ideas. I'd love to hear those too.

00:10:08:19 - 00:10:15:14

Amira

Yeah. Many. Feel free to come off me up. I just asked you to unmute. Let's see if that works.

00:10:15:16 - 00:10:16:19

Speaker 2

Hello?

00:10:16:21 - 00:10:19:09

Amira

Yeah. Oh. That way? Yeah.

00:10:19:11 - 00:10:41:17

Speaker 2

Hi, everyone. My name is mini. My pronouns are she, they. It's why I understand. So I think the importance of the collective period that, we're all in community with each other. And so we protect ourselves in the ways that we know, and we are the stewards of our own communities, our own rights, and our own personal interests.

00:10:41:17 - 00:11:06:03

Speaker 2

So the importance of collective care is in a way where, for example, I know that my neighbor has a facility needs if I don't see my neighbor for like a few days. I know that maybe she might be depressed knowing that she has a history of mental health issues. And so then I can gather all my other neighbors or my friends to knock on her door and see if she's okay.

00:11:06:03 - 00:11:35:01

Speaker 2

Sent her text, and then do the things that she needs, which is get her meds, or bring her some food or co-work or helper clean her house. So, really small acts. Those are really examples of the small act of collective care. And then it can magnify to bigger ways, like, us taking this workshop or even, another example would be, keeping each other accountable, which is another form of care.

00:11:35:03 - 00:11:54:18

Amira

Yeah, those are great examples. Mini, I really appreciate you sharing that. Collective care can often and most tangibly feel like the people around us in our everyday lives and how we show up in ways that they need support. Recognizing and showing up in those ways. So appreciate you bringing that into the conversation. I also am reading the chat.

00:11:54:18 - 00:12:14:05

Amira

I appreciate people that have shared that they selected share. Because collective care is a process that they are still in. I think that is incredible to be. And part of that, and also acknowledging that you've got a lot of learning to do. So appreciate that, Marsha. Also, just one flag. I realize that you because we are going more lock down on our security.

00:12:14:06 - 00:12:31:12

Amira

You can't unmute as easily. Many just demoed a great way for us to practice, which is just raise your hand and I will make sure you're unmuted. So if there is a moment where you want to talk in the future, raise the hand and we'll go through that process. Okay. We're going to keep moving on through these.

00:12:31:13 - 00:12:55:12

Amira

We've got three more. Sorry. Can you get us up with. Oh, wow. Sorry. With the quick hand. Okay. Question number four. I use digital security tools and services to protect myself online. True. False. Sure.

00:12:55:14 - 00:13:17:02

Amira

Okay. I'm going to close this poll. Thank you all for, sharing so promptly. What we can see in the poll is about 30% of you have said true. And about 70% of you had said true. As in, I believe you might use some or you might not use many, or you're unsure what to use.

00:13:17:04 - 00:13:50:10

Amira

Does anyone want to jump in here and share why they might have put. Sure. And again, you can use the chat. If you want to be non audio and if you want to be audio raise your hand and we'll unmute you.

00:13:50:12 - 00:13:54:08

Amira

Okay. There we go. Thank you.

00:13:54:10 - 00:14:19:23

Speaker 2

Hi there I'm Yasmin. My pronouns are they. And she, I just said sure, because I feel like there's such a plethora of digital security tools, and I really feel lost about the majority of them. Even something as simple as having different passwords for everything feels like, overwhelming. Password managers, like, I can, like, use them, but I know there's definitely still stuff that I'm repeating passwords.

00:14:20:00 - 00:14:28:12

Speaker 2

And I also know that's just like scratching the surface of digital security. So that's why I said, sure.

00:14:28:14 - 00:14:49:09

Amira

Yeah. So thank you so much for vocalizing that. I also appreciate in the chat that others have echoed the overwhelming this and that. The amount and selection of tools is just hard to navigate for any one person. And let me tell you, I hear y'all don't worry. Like that is, very much on par with where research says that most people are.

00:14:49:11 - 00:15:14:22

Amira

Okay, we're going to keep us rolling on to question for, which is I know how my digital security impacts those around me. Sorry if we can get this quiz. Pull up. There we go. We'll keep it open for a minute while everyone responds.

00:15:14:24 - 00:15:35:17

Amira

We've got 1 to 2 more responses we're waiting on. All right. Okay, we're going to close us out now. All right. I'm going to show you the results. This is the first time we've had

falls in there. It's good. As I said, we don't like the binary. We need to, like, move around. Do people have different answers, different experiences?

00:15:35:19 - 00:16:05:19

Amira

We we kind of have a little bit of a spread with a little bit more on the sure energy here. Do people, anyone want to vocalize where they were coming in on, how their digital security, like, on their true false or unsure of how their digital security impacts others around them?

00:16:05:21 - 00:16:08:19

Amira

Okay. Many. I'm unmuting you.

00:16:08:21 - 00:16:20:14

Speaker 2

I think one example to bring it off. If someone goes to protest and they take a picture of everyone's face and then post it online.

00:16:20:16 - 00:16:47:13

Amira

Yeah, that's a great example. I know that there are someone who's running a workshop akin to the Cyber Friday program on protesting safely. There is a lot of ways in which we, are modeled, by tech companies and platforms to do this thing without realizing the consequences of axon and taking a photo at a protest or people's faces, or identities is clearly something that puts a lot of people at risk.

00:16:47:13 - 00:16:54:17

Amira

But most people are unaware of. So. Great example.

00:16:54:19 - 00:17:16:12

Amira

All right. And I'm looking at the chat with, my and also apologies if I'm not pronouncing things wrong. I love using names. Names are beautiful. They're important parts of identity. To some, not all. And so I want to be able to call everyone by name because we are friends here. We are in community. And so if I'm pronouncing it wrong, I apologize, and I will, correct myself, but please let me know.

00:17:16:14 - 00:17:36:14

Amira

So we have Marsha. We're just saying I know a lot of basic impacts, but still trying to understand how it impacts others around me, which honestly is a moving target in our digital ecosystem. Layla saying it seems really mystifying to me. I'm not sure how digital security really impacts me, let alone other folks, which is kind of what society and companies want you to believe.

00:17:36:14 - 00:17:53:04

Amira

So we are, naturally pushed into that area without offering the information and resources to get out of that area. But being here is your first step, so thank you. Amy Avril, I'm going to unmute you. Okay. I want you to hear me. Yeah.

00:17:53:04 - 00:18:21:04

Speaker 2

We can. Yeah. So I work communications at a university. I'm going to say which one I can probably find me really easily. So one of our best practices is that we try to do sort of a digital audit of our information. We do have a lot of sensitive information on our website, our social media, and I try to reflect that in my private life as well, just to make sure that I know my friend's personal information is in order for too long, or just checking in to make sure that, they're okay with being shared.

00:18:21:06 - 00:18:26:09

Speaker 2

Thank you.

00:18:26:11 - 00:18:45:13

Amira

Yeah. We won't search the university. We will leave you in there on empty. But also understanding how data transfer and how we are keeping hold of it in the back end for any one person or anyone space, is super important. Many. I see your hand. I'm going to move on to the next question.

00:18:45:15 - 00:19:09:22

Amira

And if you want to jump in there, we'll point to first. But just for time, we're going to keep going. So question number six and our final poll question is I understand how technology is used against communities I care about. Now I'm not specifying any which community. I want you to reflectively think about the communities you care about, and understand how technology is either used for or against that community.

00:19:09:24 - 00:19:35:10

Amira

And then please answer in the pool. We'll give it another couple seconds. We're waiting on a few more answers. Oh, and thank you for that clarification, Renee. I thought you were so excited. I was here for it. I was like, please keep these hands coming. Okay. We're going to end the poll and share the results. So what we have here is about 67% of this crew being like, true.

00:19:35:12 - 00:20:01:00

Amira

I have a feeling that that crew is the one that's like, we're here because we know this. And then the split on false and. Sure. I'm curious on this one. Is there anyone who wants to speak particularly about why they selected the answer they did, and share a little bit more on either their understanding or not understanding.

00:20:01:02 - 00:20:05:02

Amira

Great work. Yeah, I'm unmuting and thank you for raising your hand.

00:20:05:04 - 00:20:12:11

Speaker 2

I can say I chose false because, well, I have some ideas of possible ways, technology could be used.

00:20:12:13 - 00:20:20:11

Speaker 3

I really don't have a good understanding of how it is actually being used against communities I care about right now.

00:20:20:13 - 00:20:48:03

Amira

Which is totally fair. Many organizations do not want you to know. So in many ways it is a black box, which, is hard to navigate. And the good news is we have a lot of people working in these spaces and doing good work to constantly uncover some of that. And that might be where a lot of people who said true understand that, those who said true might also be in a space where they think about this constantly, in whether physical or digital spaces they're in and how it impacts those within their okay.

00:20:48:03 - 00:21:08:09

Amira

Great. Thank you. We're going to keep it short on that one. And I love that the chat is going. And I agree what you said resonates with me as well. We're going to come back to these polls later, but we're going to talk a little bit more about why we're here. And a little bit more, backgrounds around frameworks, around community and digital resilience.

00:21:08:09 - 00:21:33:19

Amira

Resilience. So we're here because, first of all, cyber readiness, inclusive programing, for many of you to uplevel skills. And in the spaces you are working on in many ways, I don't know many of you, but, from what I gather, you are active in your communities and in your spaces thinking about these systems. As someone who has worked in these systems, I have been actively thinking about them for a long time.

00:21:33:21 - 00:21:54:20

Amira

And about a couple of years ago, I created the People's Digital Defense, which is a project where we reimagine the role of care and community and digital security. As someone who's been navigating digital security for a while. I realized that I uphold care and community in all aspects of my life to the very best ability constantly learning and growing.

00:21:54:22 - 00:22:21:18

Amira

But in digital security, these were words that were not they weren't synonymous with language we use, and they're often left out. And I want to actually talk to you about how I started this, to give you a little bit more of a context and to really ground us in why we're here today. So a couple of years ago, I was at, a protests, and a city I used to live in New York at Washington Square Park, and there was a protest put on by Audre Lorde Foundation.

00:22:21:20 - 00:22:48:10

Amira

Some of you might know RG Lorde and, it was specifically for black and brown trans individuals, protesting or for Palestine convening, not necessarily protesting. Sorry. Convening and supporting, free Palestine. And as individuals were gathered, organize the organizers asked who keeps us safe? Now, many of you might have heard this at events before.

00:22:48:10 - 00:23:10:22

Amira

It is a it is it is narrative. Many of us have heard in movement organizing, and reflectively, without thinking about it. The audience replied, we keep us safe, and I know those terms. We keep us safe are really embodied into how a lot of movement work goes. The idea is we cannot rely on governments, corporations or or organizations to keep us safe.

00:23:10:24 - 00:23:34:00

Amira

We as individuals need to take care of our local communities. Thinking of many over here and supporting community neighbors. We are the ones who realize that the communities we care about are the ones we need to be able to stand up for and constantly be protecting. Now, you regardless of that being something we all really well know and responded with, we keep us safe.

00:23:34:02 - 00:23:54:09

Amira

I had a moment, at this event where I realized I was looking up. I looked at drones over my head. I looked at us being surrounded by police officers with body cameras on them. I saw photographers and press taking photos. I saw half of our audience, not wearing masks or any sort of covering in identifiable gear.

00:23:54:11 - 00:24:18:21

Amira

I saw the other half taking pictures of us as a collective. In some moments, these are pure joy to be in community. And in some moments, I had questions where I started to wonder, what does it mean to keep us safe amongst digital systems? What does it mean to show up in physical space when it's actually digital space, where the power is in identifying us and harming us?

00:24:18:23 - 00:24:38:14

Amira

What does it mean that we need to change or do in the settings we have been in? And so much of our community based work or our movement based work, we have been adapting to the way technology and society has been growing. But when it comes to digital systems, we have not necessarily updated the mandate.

00:24:38:19 - 00:25:00:02

Amira

You don't go out to events and they share. This is all the things you can do to make sure no one online is harmed as a result of this physical event. There is a big disconnect there. And while everyone's intent is to keep our community safe, we as a community actually lack the resources and skills and know how to be able to do so.

00:25:00:04 - 00:25:16:02

Amira

And that to me was a big trigger. I was able to take back that learning. I was able to talk to a lot of individuals and say, hey, did you realize this was happening? Do you know what that means? Do you know what you would do in that scenario? And what I realized is there was a lot of disconnect.

00:25:16:04 - 00:25:34:07

Amira

And I'm going to bring those poll questions back at us because they were important. So what we saw throughout a lot of the conversations that we had was that a lot of people were able to understand that community was important to them. They think about how their actions impacts and each other. They think about the importance of collective care.

00:25:34:09 - 00:25:53:10

Amira

Just amongst our polling majority view said yes and all three of those, and that is not shocking. You are all people, I assume, who have showed up, raised your hand that you care about this work, you want to learn about it, and you want to proactively support your communities. None of that is surprising for me. Most people in these spaces tend to also say yes on their.

00:25:53:12 - 00:26:21:13

Amira

Where we get murky is the last three questions I asked. And those answers for us collectively here, right now, we're also a little bit murky. So a lot of people actually fall down when they say, I don't know if I'm totally sure if I use the right digital security tools and services to protect myself online. And then they actually said, most likely according to research, a lot of people are like, no, I have no idea how my digital security impacts those around me.

00:26:21:15 - 00:26:43:17

Amira

So far I have also, I have been told that, I should worry only about my own digital security, not about anyone else's. And so a lot of that is when I talk about that colonial mindset of security and safety is your responsibility. Has been trickled down in research to saying, a lot of people don't know about that because a lot of people have not actually thought about it.

00:26:43:23 - 00:27:03:19

Amira

And the reason as to why most people don't realize or haven't thought about it is because a lot of people are unsure about how technology is used against communities they care about. And this can be attributed in many ways. It could be that they are confused about how technology is used against them. They are confused on how what is being built on technology, for so much of it is a black box.

00:27:03:19 - 00:27:22:10

Amira

We are not supposed to know how it works. And I promise you, I someone else brought this up too. The more I know, the more I wish I almost didn't now. But the more I feel accountable to sharing that with others, to making sure we all understand so we can actively try to protect our communities.

00:27:22:12 - 00:27:40:16

Amira

Okay. And I'm just going to take a quick peek at the chat and just remind you all in this phase, I'm doing a little bit more talking, for the next little bit. So if you have comments or reactions, please jump them in chat. Again, want to make sure we're all learning together with this. And I'm happy to take questions at.

00:27:40:18 - 00:28:00:01

Amira

So this is where the landscape currently is and this is what we actually need to address. So this is the work that I do under the People's Digital Defense. And the reason we focus I focus so much on this is because I've been conducting surveys and research for the last eight years on consumer behavior around security and privacy.

00:28:00:03 - 00:28:33:06

Amira

And what I've learned is that actually, over three quarters of us are very, very concerned about our privacy security online. And then when we've research, following up with those 75% of people, what we have learned is they actually are concerned, but they're unsure of what to do. So the concern is not meeting actions, which is if we bring this back to the example I made at the beginning, people, know that digital threats and risks are increasing, but are doing even less than they have been doing in previous years as a result of that.

00:28:33:12 - 00:28:51:03

Amira

And the more we see those threats grow, the more we're concerned and the less we're doing. Now, none of this should surprise anyone. I'm just listing out basic human behavior, but this is really helpful for us to know as we ground ourselves and where we're where the environments are and how we're going to move forward as a result.

00:28:51:05 - 00:29:14:24

Amira

Well, when we bring this back to community, I am constantly thinking about the different threats. According to the research, we have seen Black and Latino Americans experience cyber attacks are twice as likely and moves money more money compared to white Americans. I'm actually working on an update to this research right now, and we're seeing that this research is actually getting worse.

00:29:15:00 - 00:29:48:19

Amira

We're seeing communities of color as a whole actually lose substantially more money to cyber threats than white counterparts. We're also seeing these communities be more shamed the more fear based and less understanding, less willing to take on security risks because of all of the processes that are a part of this and how they've been targeted. Also, side note, a little bit of a teaser on this research is that we're also seeing that communities with more money, with more affluence, are also seeing less cyber attacks and losing less money.

00:29:48:19 - 00:30:11:13

Amira

So we're seeing as both a threat to our communities color, but also a threat to our low income communities as a whole. Which is not surprising from a consumer standpoint. Another threat we're seeing is security forces employ digital targeting as a means of gathering or creating digital evidence to support prosecutions around LGBTQ plus people, communities, two-spirit as well.

00:30:11:19 - 00:30:40:03

Amira

In Canada, this is directly from Human Rights Watch. So we're seeing gender and sexuality targeted heavily online through digital threats. These can be in really

vulnerable places for these communities. There are a lot that exists on dating apps. There are a lot that exist generally across programming, and also social platforms that are often, as, as, academics have called putting people back in the closet by hiding them.

00:30:40:05 - 00:31:05:14

Amira

By making sure that their voices are not included in those spaces. And then another threat we're seeing that research shows threat actors are more likely to target immigrants or non-English speakers than other demographics. Oftentimes, scammers are preying upon those who are newer to countries or spaces, who have low level English as a way, to make sure that they click on, scams or threats.

00:31:05:16 - 00:31:26:00

Amira

Pushing them more into phishing or malware or otherwise. This is particularly harmful for these communities. It makes them very wary of the internet of the space they're in the country they're in, of people who have access to their information. It can be really repetitive, violent cycle. These are just some communities that I've listed here. They are no means representative.

00:31:26:01 - 00:31:56:04

Amira

All diverse, often, historically oppressed communities. But it's showing you that how well we don't realize it. The communities that I personally care about, communities that often many of us surround ourselves with or identify with, are not only heavily impacted, but by cyber threats and programs, or attacks, but they are actually standing to have the most to lose on them and they are the most impacted in these spaces.

00:31:56:06 - 00:32:21:21

Amira

So this is actually, cyber threats and attacks is a racial justice issue. It is a gender issue. It is an immigrant issue. It is so many issues. It is a geographical issue. And and it is a it is beyond the issues of our communities, but it is something we all collectively have a stake in. When you are based in community organizing or movement work as, as a whole.

00:32:21:21 - 00:32:40:24

Amira

And so I just want to make sure that we see and feel these threads, which I don't expect you all, to experience this in your everyday life, but I imagine many of you have already had experience with that. Like I said, these threats are representing systemic injustices and have emotional, physical and economic impact on vulnerable communities.

00:32:41:01 - 00:33:09:12

Amira

This is the full range spectrum. If you have ever talked to someone who has had their entire systems taken down, lost a bunch of money, we know that this is rooted so much in fear, overwhelming ness and shame which our spaces, our community is often put in as a reflection of systemic issues. That just further puts them in spaces, that are reflective of that cycle that actually, like, we need to break, we need to get out of.

00:33:09:12 - 00:33:37:19

Amira

But but are actually very synonymous with what is happening as a whole around us in so many different ways. And I really think it's important to highlight here the emotional toll that this has on people. Can sometimes be really detrimental in ways that we don't see or feel. And I really want to acknowledge that. So the reason why this is, very important and the reason why we need to consider our security and all spaces we are online.

00:33:37:21 - 00:34:02:03

Amira

Is that every move we make online as a data point, and our data leads to every person we interact with digitally. And so I love the example that was brought up earlier, by Avril, that, you know, you could be, unassumingly working somewhere where you are in control of someone's data. Just by a sign up sheet, just by processing information for students.

00:34:02:05 - 00:34:27:23

Amira

For professors, for people within an organization, you have control of data. And that data is very valuable. Which means not only are you accountable for how that data is safely kept, you're accountable for how that data safely distribute. It is deleted. And anyways, those are those are actually key points about an individual, that can lead to any numerous amount of effects or attacks.

00:34:28:00 - 00:34:51:21

Amira

And I do want to say this very clearly. Corporations and governments are so keen to have the information and data about communities because what they do is they map and track that. And they actually also try to control behavior online in so many ways. So this data is something that is precious. It's precious to everyone in the world in many ways in a digital economy.

00:34:52:00 - 00:35:21:24

Amira

Data is your digital currency. And so the core of what we're talking about here is how data is shared and used. Data is also inclusive of media. And together we're going to unpack how that actually happens and what we can do to keep us safe. Okay. We talked about some doom and gloom. It's not always fun, but I needed to do that to

ground us in our understanding, of actually what we now, what audiences around the world know in our in our North American setting and Turtle Island.

00:35:22:01 - 00:35:43:02

Amira

And I want to understand now what we do about it. And we're going to do this together. So my ground is very small scale, that I really love, that I've always held dear to myself in the work and practices that I operate in. And it says shouting self-care at people who actually need community care. It's how we fail people.

00:35:43:04 - 00:36:05:11

Amira

And so right now, insecurity landscape in the industry, in these spaces. We are actually pushing people to do the thing for you. We are telling you that you should have that BPM, that you should have that password manager, that you should do X thing. Whereas I'm asking and encouraging us all to flip the script and say, actually, what should we do collectively?

00:36:05:13 - 00:36:24:23

Amira

And this could look like small actions at your workplaces to be like, hey, what can we do to keep this data more safe? What can we do to ensure people are joining safely? What can we do when when someone tries to. Zoombombing. At the beginning of a crawl, say, how do we take care of each other in this moment?

00:36:25:00 - 00:36:49:15

Amira

How do we make sure we have processes set in place where Sara was able to go run, and operate that efficiently, and we are able to continuously move on and learn and create more of that grounding together. So I encourage us to think from that perspective, but also acknowledge that if we look at this from an AI perspective, we are going to fail mass loads of communities that are not here with us, that need a lot more hand-holding, that are coming at their own pace.

00:36:49:17 - 00:37:13:17

Amira

And we need to be able to meet them where they're at. So basis of what we're here is digital security shakes its hand with collective care. And what we're going to do is we're going to show how we can put loads of collective care into how we approach digital security, so that together we can merge the two and we can achieve security through care.

00:37:13:17 - 00:37:34:23

Amira

As the avenue. And we're going to do that by breaking down how we communicate with each other, how we actively stand up with each other in physical space, and how

we actively use more tools in security. And now I'm going to give you a little bit of, a preview. The next few slides are like the big, juicy parts of the conversation.

00:37:35:04 - 00:37:55:19

Amira

There is a lot of info on here. So what I'm going to do is I'm going to talk through them. But I'm going to leave space after every one of these slides for questions. For thoughts. You are welcome to share feedback, share tools or resources that are not included in here. I want each slide to be able to have a moment of pause so we can go through that together.

00:37:55:21 - 00:38:25:15

Amira

But when we think about communication, in a joint community space, whether digital or physical, we think about how we engage and interact with each other. Often times we don't realize that what we're saying could be, sensitive information for one person, but maybe not another. And so thinking about your individuals in that space and what might be sensitive at one point or another and not, sometimes it is worth taking the moment of pause to actually think through that.

00:38:25:21 - 00:38:51:23

Amira

Sometimes it's worth asking individuals. I will share personal example. I, work out of the US. I travel often to the US. I have to be very careful about what conversations are on my phone at any given period of time. To make sure that, both myself and anyone messaging me or anyone in the groups with content are going to be able to stay safe in an emergency if something happens to me or my devices.

00:38:52:00 - 00:39:18:21

Amira

So having that conversation with friends and community and moving groups I'm, I'm part of has been really important for them to be able to communicate in safe ways with me and to be able to acknowledge that what they're sharing with me has the potential to be, shared in spaces if we don't use proper programs. So my big tip on communication, is there a platform and tools that use end to end encryption that you need to use to be able to communicate with folks?

00:39:19:01 - 00:39:43:21

Amira

So I use signal. Signal is one of the most secure end to end, chat options in the industry. One of the biggest things about signal is you actually set disappearing messages. So using signal as a default alone is not going to be the most secure. Doing things like adjusting your settings when you're there, like setting disappearing messages, allow those platforms to enable more secure methods.

00:39:43:23 - 00:40:09:23

Amira

I know that. I keep that on. I set my disappearing messages on a weekly basis. That allows me to have more control, allows me to be able to clear stuff before I travel in any sort of situations or settings. So that makes sure that I'm aware of my circumstances, but I'm also thinking about community circumstances. And like I mentioned, you want to make sure you adjust the settings on any platform, whether that is signal, whether that is WhatsApp, whether that's Facebook Messenger, wherever you are.

00:40:10:00 - 00:40:35:12

Amira

Make sure that those settings are protective of you and the people communicating with you. Another hot tip is don't use email for secure communications. And generally keep information sensitive information, avoid it from writing it down. So oftentimes I will tell people, hey, I have this like really tricky conversation or thing I need to talk through with someone instead of putting it in an email.

00:40:35:12 - 00:41:03:03

Amira

Can we hop on a quick call? What happens in some of those settings is that communication will not be written down, which allows people to be more secure on their platforms and spaces. And we are able to keep that from being searched or found in any way that we might forget it in the future. We are digesting so much content, it is almost unrealistic for every person to go into every platform they own and clear it generally.

00:41:03:09 - 00:41:25:11

Amira

So doing this practice actually secures you in the future from coming back to jumping into these spaces. The other one is have security guidelines for those in your spaces or in your group, whatever that might mean for you. Talk through what those individuals, what that could feel or look like concerns, that are being brought up by the community or spaces.

00:41:25:13 - 00:41:47:17

Amira

And then make sure you have like sort of a practice that you use with your community. Be like, hey, people are traveling a lot during these times. Let's use these channels for more secure communication. Or otherwise, that might make more sense. Another thing is your data that you have accumulated since the internet has been created is, enormously big.

00:41:47:22 - 00:42:11:01

Amira

There is no way for any one person to have control over their entire digital footprint. But it is really important that you try to lock down that as much as you can, which

means all data is not helpful data, or that is often incriminating data. And also, if you want an ecological perspective or data takes up space online and is actually pretty bad for the environment.

00:42:11:03 - 00:42:34:15

Amira

It has detrimental effects on the nature around us. Data itself is really costly to hold and keep. And we need lots of machines to do so. So, from an environmental perspective, a communications perspective and a security perspective, you would want to go around and delete and erase things that are no longer applicable. They might not even be a flag for you, but they might be a flag for someone else.

00:42:34:17 - 00:42:58:03

Amira

So considering your communications with others, I would I would make sure you actively do this every time. Time. And then my last thing here is limit sharing of any sort of project or team on social media or really in-depth information. Social media is not communities. Friend is something that I often say, and that means that social media is actually used against a lot of our communities.

00:42:58:05 - 00:43:23:02

Amira

Social media in this current climate and political nature is actually much partnered, with politics, which means that social media can be used for harm and good. In many ways that are beyond even our reach and are being reviewed, recorded and stored in many ways that we do not consent to. Okay. This was this was juicy, right?

00:43:23:04 - 00:43:40:21

Amira

I'm going to pause here. I would love to get some space for any comments, reflections, or questions based on communication.

00:43:40:23 - 00:44:03:19

Amira

Okay. And just like a quick by chat, because I love a good vibe check. All right. Is everyone okay? Are we following? Are we going to quickly. Is this making sense? I'm seeing some hearts. Thumbs up. People are using the react. This is what it was for. Yeah. I'm seeing, All right. Lots, lots of reacts.

00:44:03:19 - 00:44:24:03

Amira

Love this. Thank you. Appreciate it. Okay. Thank you. We've got about half an hour left, and we planned a bigger activity at the end where you all will breakout. So I am going to keep us moving so we can keep going. Appreciate you all for supporting and acknowledging in that moment. Okay. The next big one is physical safety.

00:44:24:05 - 00:44:43:23

Amira

I also want to preface this by saying these are not all the ways to be physical state. In community, but these are a lot of the ways. And they help shift our frame of thinking of what and how we do. So I it's pure, basic form. Go into your device, go into the apps, and the settings, and turn off your location.

00:44:44:00 - 00:45:05:17

Amira

When you are in places, a lot of these apps and platforms want to track your location everywhere you go. What it does is it gathers as much data as it can from you. And then it maps you to physical places and things based on your behavior. And in some cases, it actually shares this with which spaces like police forces and others in ways that are harmful for our communities.

00:45:05:19 - 00:45:26:13

Amira

And so, to be perfectly honest, no one ever needs to know your location setting. In many sort of things, like, I'm pretty certain that's something that only you and you care about. And I don't mean that in a just regretful way. I mean, like, sometimes it's really cool to track this, but, most of the times, like, I actually don't use any of those settings, and I don't have a value for it.

00:45:26:13 - 00:45:47:05

Amira

And even if I did, that value does not outweigh the harm that someone else tracking my location settings will do for me. So this is something I've analyzed in some cases you might want to, but also if you are posting things that have location settings, I recommend posting them after you have already been there. It's a practice that I use.

00:45:47:07 - 00:46:06:08

Amira

And it is something that, I make sure that, like, I don't ever really care for people to know when I am in a physical space at a physical moment. That's actually something often social platforms have encouraged us to do, so they can track their location instead. Okay. The next one is remove facial recognition and biometric logins on mobile.

00:46:06:10 - 00:46:30:21

Amira

This is in a specifically if you are in physical setting where you might be around police force or protest or other sorts of spaces. No one should have consent to open up your devices. Other than you. But in some places, like at borders, in some places at port for protests, you can have these devices used against you if someone throws up or uses your own body, to unlock them.

00:46:30:21 - 00:46:56:13

Amira

So just as a straight shot, don't do it. Because if you can imagine just how many of your community, your contacts, your people, your comrades are all in your device, you know that that's a really special place that should not be accessed by people who have a history of harming historically oppressed communities. The other one is minimizing recording and documentation of people.

00:46:56:15 - 00:47:18:13

Amira

I love that this was brought up earlier. Thank you. Many. So, you know, if you are in physical space with community, be conscious of how you are documenting people. In some cases, people will give consent, and that's okay. In many spaces. There is no consent that is often able to be provided by default. When consent is not provided is to not do the thing.

00:47:18:15 - 00:47:37:15

Amira

Or do you do the thing in a way that is safe and protective? I love also taking events, taking pictures and documentation at events, or showing I'm out on the streets. In some ways, that's my I use that in an activism way to encourage others to also show up or to know I could be a buddy when they want to show up.

00:47:37:17 - 00:48:00:16

Amira

And so when I do this, I make sure that I do it in a way where no faces are visible. And, and you are not able to identify anyone in the pictures or spaces if I'm not able to get consent from those people. Also, I want to say here, as a high tech, if you capture content and then, produce an image or an emoji on top of that before you upload it on a social image.

00:48:00:18 - 00:48:20:21

Amira

If you do that within the app or the platform, that platform keeps the original image. So they still have access to the community members, which, by default means you putting an emoji on the face is actually not helpful in a lot of cases against the systems I play. And any sort of editing needs to be done before the picture is shared on the or shared to the platform.

00:48:20:23 - 00:48:41:02

Amira

Even just you uploading it and adding anything to it. So, a lot of people recommend the safest way is actually to minimize, any risks. It's just to don't bring your devices to high risk scenarios. I know that's easier said than done. We are attached to mobile devices, and it is not always easy to do so.

00:48:41:04 - 00:49:09:23

Amira

In some cases, you will want to make sure you're backing up your phone or deleting sensitive information. I do this actually, regularly. I do this on a monthly basis because I backup a lot of things, and I delete a lot of things constantly. That is how I make sure that any one point, if I device is being taken by an individual, I have make sure that I know what is being done in the last little bit and who is act whose information is accessible on their last thing is purely physical.

00:49:10:00 - 00:49:33:20

Amira

In a physical space is don't be identifiable. So what does that mean? It means avoid standing out. By physical items that you might be wearing or having tattoos visible or anything on you that might be super identifiable. Someone who would look at that and be like, oh, I could easily find where that person is. Or I could do a line up and I could match this person to that tattoo.

00:49:33:22 - 00:49:58:11

Amira

In some cases, we can't change who we are and what we look like and who we are is beautiful. But in many cases, there are ways we can limit the identifiability on our person. Okay. Next powers to check in. How are we feeling on physical health? Not helpful. Let's use those reaction emojis. All right, Janice, give me a thumbs up.

00:49:58:11 - 00:50:24:15

Amira

Appreciate you. Pirate's thumbs. More thumbs up. Thank you. Okay, great. I appreciate all of the reactions. We're going to go on to our last set of these ones, which is just general security. I'm going to read these through pretty quickly. So just the settings on your apps, on your mobile devices, you should adjust them on literally any platform you use anywhere.

00:50:24:17 - 00:50:48:09

Amira

Companies by default want to be able to track you. They want to be able to store. They want to be able to collect your data. Every almost every organization does that by default for their own benefit. The best way to use a system against the system is actually just have, confidence and autonomy to go in and be like, hey, before I start using its platform, let me just check the settings and make sure I'm comfortable with everything.

00:50:48:09 - 00:51:12:13

Amira

And and my community would also be comfortable with all these. The number one best tip you can do to protect your security online is to install updates when they are available. When I tell people this, it is actually shocking. Because I'm like, this is

actually so easy. It is either enabling your automatic updates or when you see that message pop up like, yes, right away.

00:51:12:15 - 00:51:42:16

Amira

The reason for this is because when cyber threats are detected on any given platform, we the industry as a whole creates bugs and patches, which they then push and automatic updates. If you do not do those updates automatically, it means your devices are vulnerable depending on how big that attack or threat is. We don't know how much time before others are impacted, which means doing an automatic update is like it is top tier.

00:51:42:18 - 00:52:01:16

Amira

If you take away one thing from it and do that, I'd be like, cool, you're on your way. You are already improving the security ecosystem for so many around you. Use a password manager and create strong passwords. Passwords are gold online. We want to make sure that you are not using password. The same passwords across devices.

00:52:01:17 - 00:52:26:13

Amira

You're using unique and strong ones. If using unique, strong, different passwords is tough for you, then that is really what a password manager is. Where I promise you, you just need one very complex password. And then the rest are able to store password managers actually should be given a code name of being vault because you can store any form of, you can store any form of information on them.

00:52:26:15 - 00:52:53:01

Amira

They don't actually have to be just passwords. You can share your Social Security number, so it's our chance number. You can share your password, your passport. You can share a, whole slew of information that is just generally personal and private. Multifactor adds an additional authentic layer to your account. So in the event of a data breach, if someone gets access to your password, they still will not be able to access it without use of multi-factor authentication.

00:52:53:03 - 00:53:21:06

Amira

And a lot of ways, we sort of become adjusted to these. In the last few years, a lot of people predominantly use somewhat bank accounts. Using them through text based or phone based multi-factor authentication, using an authentic multi-factor authenticator app like Okta, Google password, are the more secure and I recommend you move towards those. But also there are more stricter ones that are more intensive that you don't need to know in this setting.

00:53:21:06 - 00:53:47:05

Amira

But there are many versions of multi-factor authentication, and what you use does matter to your security. Decline cookies online. I actually love this. In, Canada, we have we have greater autonomy over no as an option in some countries and places. Sometimes it doesn't give you options to decline cookies. You have to go through a much longer process, which is harder, which is what they do to make sure that people don't decline them.

00:53:47:07 - 00:54:03:07

Amira

So when you see something saying, hey, we're just going to capture cookies to track you online, that is someone saying, hey, we want your data to make our work better to persuade you, online to do more of the things we want to do to be able to share, collect and sell your data, which are all monetary strategies.

00:54:03:09 - 00:54:23:10

Amira

You are under no obligation to share your fees. It not only tracks you and tracks anyone you're interacting with in spaces. Make sure you define it. Takes two extra seconds. Don't do it. Okay. I did a facial recognition. We covered that. Delete unused account. Your digital footprint trail is important. We don't want it. Don't fall for the phishing hook.

00:54:23:12 - 00:54:45:10

Amira

Take your time. Pause before you see anything online. Your best first line of defense, online, is actually to slow down, which is because of the fact that most threat actors and people in these spaces are actually using urgency as the reason they get you as a hook. And limit sensitive info when sharing with I. Okay, quick pause there.

00:54:45:12 - 00:55:11:14

Amira

I'm meant to look at the chat. It seems we have people, who didn't know about automatic updates. I told you, if that's one thing you take away, I'd be really proud. But I also see that automatic updates aren't necessarily accessible, because of older devices that don't receive OS updates. And maybe I, I actually really appreciate you raising this because in many cases, these things are not made to be accessible.

00:55:11:16 - 00:55:32:04

Amira

In many cases, these things are actually made to be inaccessible and not impact communities. And there's a reason why. And a lot of study and research I'm doing right now, we're seeing individuals with more affluence be less likely to be hit with a digital attack or scam, because they often have more money because they buy newer devices that lead them to being more protected.

00:55:32:06 - 00:55:52:13

Amira

Again, systemic and not very ablest and affluent in many ways. And so, yeah, if you're using an old device, I would say that you should then be aware that updates are not always going to be usable, and that is a vulnerability for you and how you then protect your information and data as a result of that is super important.

00:55:52:15 - 00:56:06:04

Amira

Okay. Quick check with everyone. We're good. We're rolling. Any other comments or thoughts on general security?

00:56:06:06 - 00:56:34:06

Amira

Okay. I will say we don't have them right now, but the cat energy is really high and cybersecurity as a whole, and I love that. It's showing up on this call. So yeah. So Sarah, thank you so much. Keeping us grounded. We love our feline friends. Okay. The last example here on General Security, I just want to tell you is there is an organization, that I love being in community with in New York.

00:56:34:08 - 00:56:55:20

Amira

And, a year ago, they actually went. Okay, I'll preface this with saying previously they had, on every event form a part that said on their sign up, I commit that this is a safe space, and I will do everything I can to make sure that the safety code is upheld and that I'm providing safety for everyone around me.

00:56:55:22 - 00:57:19:17

Amira

A year ago, after intensive research, they switched that code of conduct to this, which is a shift towards how we understand that safety is actually dependent on not just ourselves, but everyone around us. And the only way to remain a safe space is rolling with a crew that cares about safety for not just themselves, but everyone around them.

00:57:19:19 - 00:57:38:03

Amira

And to do so, we need to take care of not just ourselves, but others. And I think this is really powerful because what we're seeing is actually not just event space, a shift, on something that has been very static around safety code of conduct for a long period of time, but actually shift the mode on how we think about this.

00:57:38:05 - 00:57:56:14

Amira

My safety, anywhere I go is the crew I roll with and so part of this is ensuring that I want to make sure I roll with the damn good crew. And I want to make sure I do that by

making sure everyone in my crew understands how we all keep each other safe. And that's truly the framework we're dealing with here.

00:57:56:16 - 00:58:18:03

Amira

Okay, so additional resources. I'm going to just drop these here. These are three that I actually really, respect. And some ways I participated, my own curriculum and some of these, but so feel free to drop these down, take a screenshot, whatever makes sense for you. Content is given. These are places you can refer to with specifics.

00:58:18:09 - 00:58:43:12

Amira

They also dive deeper into some of the things I talked about. So I would recommend, depending on the nature of your work and what you're curious on, to dig in here for more details. Okay, we've got 15 minutes left. We're going to do a scenario breakout. And so before we do that, I would like to read you all actually a scenario that we are going to talk through as groups.

00:58:43:14 - 00:59:10:09

Amira

So and I recently joined a local organizing community and has decided to host a gathering for 30 friends to discuss the increase in surveillance cameras they see popping up in their neighborhood. They want to create a space to discuss how this impacts the neighborhood, and what they can collectively do to keep each other safe. They consider themselves technically savvy, but are not familiar with secure tools and what practices they should use.

00:59:10:11 - 00:59:31:20

Amira

For those that are visual learners, I want to make sure this is up later, so don't worry. We'll drop this in the chat. But at the gist of it, we're going to talk through and groups. It's technically savvy. The same is digital secure. What tools should and are used to organize and advertise the event? What are the visible and invisible surveillance systems that the neighborhood should be aware of?

00:59:31:22 - 00:59:55:24

Amira

And what are three actions the community to do to keep each other safe? So here, is both the prompt and the questions. I am going to drop this in the chat, so that everyone has it, but Sara is going to open up breakout rooms. My ask is that in these breakout rooms, you all have ten minutes as a group to collectively share this.

00:59:55:24 - 01:00:15:01

Amira

So just as a heads up, I think we only need two breakout rooms. Based on the size of everyone here, in groups. So you'll be split into two, approximately 4 or 5 people per

group. Discuss through this. If you don't get too far, don't worry. We'll call you back. Under ten minutes, and then we're going to do a quick share out.

01:00:15:01 - 01:00:23:01

Amira

So in your groups, please select someone who cannot take and be able to do like a 32nd to a minute share out afterwards.