Reema Moussa 0:00
From the Internet Law and Policy Foundry, this is the Tech Policy
Grind Podcast. Every week, our fellows chat with leaders in the
technology and internet law and policy space on recent developments
and exciting topics such as privacy, internet governance,
cybersecurity, tech legislation, and more. I'm your host, Reema
Moussa, and I'm a member of the fourth cohort of Foundry Fellows. The
Foundry is a collaborative organization for internet law and policy
professionals who are passionate about disruptive innovation.

Today, I chatted with Patrick Kyhos, former fellow at the foundry and
current Deputy Chief of Cyber Policy at the FBI. Hi, Patrick, welcome
to the show. Or I should say probably welcome back since this is your
second time on.

Patrick Kyhos 1:05
This is round two and I'm just as excited and happy to be here as the
original. So looking forward to our conversation.

Reema Moussa 1:14
Great. So we'll just jump right into it. And I think it would be great
to hear your sort of origin story and what got you started into this
field of tech policy.

Patrick Kyhos 1:29
Sure thing. So I think like any true origin story, you got to start
where you are to properly trace through the beginning. So right now, I
am a Deputy Chief of Cyber Policy at the FBI in their Cyber Division.
I have a team that I co manage and has a pretty expansive portfolio of
issues that range from legislative engagements, legislative solutions,
as well as emerging technology, federal cybersecurity, a whole gambit
of things and maybe some things people don't think about when you
think of the FBI, because there is international components of my work
as well, which is fun and exciting. Because we are a large
organization with a large footprint, and we are across the globe to
help and to assist and remediate and provide assistance to victims,
whether they be individuals or entities or corporations, even
governments, as recent events prove and are now public knowledge. So
why did I join the FBI? And how did I get here? So it starts way back
to the beginning after law school I originally thought I was going to
be a white collar prosecutor. I had come from a stint in investment
banking. But in law school, I did an externship and I realized that
white collar prosecuting wasn't all that I had thought it would be and
would not be a satisfying career. I was very fortuitous, and taking a
really challenging and thought provoking class in cybercrime and
cybersecurity, my 2L year and then got involved in the legislative
process in legislative solutions. First, at the state level, I worked
for the Speaker of the House of Maryland. And then I worked for a
Senate campaign, and ultimately was the Chief of Staff for a Maryland
member of the House of Delegates. From there, I got recruited into my

current organization, where I was brought in for national security litigation, and then did a variety of things, including serving in our Office of General Counsel, handling privacy technology, and cutting edge investigations. And then I led and established a team for our chief information officer about information technology, strategy, and progression. And now I'm in Cyber Division, where I focus on cyber operations and investigations, so more of the OT and cutting edge investigative tools, as well as coordination and cooperation across the globe. So why am I here and why did I get there because my organization is a premier around the world, known for its cyber capabilities and its proficiency. So we are the first call, and hopefully the best call you have to make after a not so great time in your life.

Reema Moussa 5:09
Yeah, and I think that's kind of the fun part about cyber is being sort of on the front lines and being sort of a first responder in the digital world, I suppose. And I guess that's particularly salient in the FBI context. So that's great. So you're based in the DC area, like many other Foundry Fellows. And I think it's been really interesting to hear from other Fellows, like what their sort of DC story is, and, you know, sort of what brought you there and what's kept you there. So I'd love to hear that.

Patrick Kyhos 5:53
So I am a longtime DC person, born and raised here grew up here. So I'm a bit of a unicorn. I really liked the culture really liked the people, and just really like the work. I'm a devoted public servant. And so there are few better places to serve the public than DC. And right now, in the technology, strategy in technology, legislation, and just progression, there's no better place to be than right here in the nation's capitol, creating laws and creating the solutions to some of the biggest global problems.

Reema Moussa 6:45
So I want to pull on that thread of being a lifelong public servant. And you mentioned that, you know, white collar prosecution was originally your, your sort of interest. And then that changed once you tried it, which I think is the story of many attorneys, right, especially within cyber and tech laws, doing something more traditional, and then finding your way into this emerging field of ours. So what got you interested in the public side of this type of work in particular?

Patrick Kyhos 7:30
It is the mission and the satisfaction from doing something with purpose. And knowing what you do every day matters. And what you do, and all your work has a impact and a positive impact that others feel and is noted. I did stints in the private sector before going to law school, and I know what it feels like to work for a paycheck, and just

the highs and lows of what that entails. And I intentionally chose to go into public service realm because I find that more satisfying, and it continues to fuel me and motivate me, even as I'm working 80-100 hour weeks and feeling the strain of of some of the unique burdens of being a member of public service in this emerging field with sometimes less staff and less support than you would need. But always knowing that there is a reason and a direct correlation between what I do and what it impacts to make things better.

Reema Moussa 8:58
Yeah. So what do you think is unique about a career in the public service side of tech policy, as opposed to the private sector and its many formats? We know that there's so many different rabbit holes or pathways that you can go down within the field of tech, you know, cyber in the FBI context being a very, very particular one. But I guess more generally speaking, what's your sort of advice to those who might be interested in, in a career in public service in tech policy?

Patrick Kyhos 9:47
My advice is to know your goal and to constantly pursue that and know your rationale while you're you're doing it. Obviously there are more financially lucrative fields. There are plenty of firms, plenty of private companies, plenty of think tank and advocacy groups that need great young talent. I, I am motivated to the public sector or the public service sector because it really is the unique vantage point of you get to work on these issues and craft the solutions for the right reasons. And that's ultimately for the greater good, and you're not influenced or swayed by particularly a particular organization or group that's been advocating for a certain stance on the issue. Also, within the public sector, there's a huge importance of interagency agreement and USG alignment. So there's many cooks in the kitchen and being able to distinguish and appropriatly separate which group is doing what and who is responsible for which part of a federal response or federal support is important to ensure that it is done well effectively, and has the most return for investment so to speak.

Reema Moussa 11:34
We'll be right back. For Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the Internet Law and Policy Foundry, as well as the Women in Cybersecurity — Privacy Law and Policy Affiliate are excited to present CYBER CON, the Foundry's first ever virtual cybersecurity convention. CYBER CON will take place on Friday, October 28. Starting at 11am eastern, and run until 2:30 eastern. We have a fantastic agenda planned including a fireside chat with Josephine Wolf, who's an associate professor of cybersecurity policy at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, on her latest book, Cyber Insurance Policy: Rethinking Risk in an Age of Ransomware, Computer Fraud, Data breaches and Cyber Attacks. You can register for CYBER CON now on the Foundry's Eventbrite page, or just check out the show notes for the link.

So, shifting gears a little bit, when you were a Foundry Fellow, you were the president of your class, and that was back in the second class of Fellows. So 2017 to 2019, right?

Patrick Kyhos   12:51
Correct.

Reema Moussa   12:52
Okay, so how was your experience? What brought you to the Foundry originally, and what was it like back then? It's changed a lot in the past few years, as we all have experienced, you know, casual pandemic and whatnot.

Patrick Kyhos   13:13
It has changed a lot on for the better, I should add, not because of my doing, but because of this, this successive leadership and ideas, and just novel projects that have been taken on since my time at the helm. I was the second president of the second cohort. So the first group really got the Foundry off the ground and the second class continued that upward momentum. So we expanded from a group of 45 to almost 100, which was a huge growth opportunity that we achieved. Also, we expanded out of certain metropolitan areas. So it the first class was heavily situated in DC, San Francisco, and New York City. And in the second class, we took an international perspective, we got a lot of people who are situated all across the globe. In addition to that, we expanded some of our speaker series and partnership engagements in a way that had not been yet thought of in the first class just because they were the startup trying to make everything work and get everything in mind. And that has been a huge change. And we, the second group, and just before the pandemic really hit and things went remotely. So it's been really interesting to see how how the Foundry has moved and evolved in light of additional remote opportunities, lecturing series and the ability for everyone to get together on video conferencing and calls like this, when you're not necessarily in the same city.

Reema Moussa   15:24
Yeah, definitely a silver lining, I would say. And I guess back then in, in the previous iterations of the Foundry, was there more of an emphasis on in person get togethers and whatnot?

Patrick Kyhos   15:43
Oh, yes, almost exclusively, we had not really considered virtual calls. Other than the board getting together to make consensus decisions. It really was a physical interactive group. So there was a lot of location based events as well as engagements, which made it hard to make sure that everyone in the Foundry was feeling heard, and and participanting at same rates. And so as a result, we had areas of strength in in DC, and in San Francisco, because we just had the most members there. Also, some of our events, just required people to be in

the same city. So things like the Hackathon, which is a great success of the third class was was not possible, just because we didn't have the resources and putting something together that required people traveling and working and just collaborating like that is not possible, but is enabled by video capabilities right now, which is exciting and cool. And really thrilling to see how it's been embraced and has made the Foundry better and been able to expand out to new events, it just new ways of growing the network.

Reema Moussa   17:33
Yeah, it's no, it's really exciting. And I mean, the next iteration of the Hackathon, I think, round three will be happening and just just a little bit now. So it's exciting to see how that's been enabled.

Patrick Kyhos   17:48
Just a few weeks away and can't wait to see some of the ideas and great products and just camaraderie that is generated by the third annual Foundry Policy Hackathon.

Reema Moussa   18:07
Yeah, absolutely.

Patrick Kyhos   18:09
Which is a shameless plug.

Unknown Speaker   18:11
[Laughter]

Reema Moussa   18:13
We would never do a shameless plug on on this show and never! No we plug it every episode.

Unknown Speaker   18:20
[Laughter]

Reema Moussa   18:22
But, but no, appreciate, appreciate the plug.

Patrick Kyhos   18:25
Well, happy to stay on brand.

Reema Moussa   18:31
So you're on the frontlines. You're sort of a cyber first responder, so to speak. What issues in cyber on the horizon do you think are the most concerning, most on the rise, or most underestimated?

Patrick Kyhos   18:52
I will answer that very broad question with an even broader statement. I think that the biggest shift in this kind of epoch of the global connected world is the blurring between nation state actors and

certain criminal activities and criminal groups. And there's some theories out there, that the connected world, the electronically connected world has different iterations. And it goes in cycles, normally around the two to three year timeframe. And it seems that this era is now kind of been reset by the Russian-Ukraine conflict and war and is now where is the line between a state actor and a state enabled state supported and state sponsored actor. And that's the thing that I think is going to evolve and stand out during this timeframe. Because when you have state aligned actors, but of cybercriminals their activities and the ramification of some of their malicious targeting, or cyber engagements, where is that drawing line? And where do you start drawing a connection and culpability for that action?

Reema Moussa 20:39
Fascinating. Yeah. And I mean, these issues around attribution, and the sort of larger geopolitical landscape, around cyber are, are very complex, and really interesting to dive into. And I think there's an interesting connection there from the human side of people who are studying, you know, national security, foreign policy, international conflict, and how those voices might really contribute to study of these issues. So thank you for your your insight there with your broad answer to a broader question.

Unknown Speaker 21:35
[Laughter]

Reema Moussa 21:35
But thank you. So one of my favorite questions to ask Fellows, is what you're reading or listening to right now.

Patrick Kyhos 21:47
So I am reading a few things. I have several course books, because I'm continuing my education with an LLM in technology law. And so one of the books that I'm reading the most is, or rereading should I say, is the "Tallinn Manual", for reasons we just discussed, but also reading some of the classics and some light hearted things that take my mind off of subject matter. So, "All the Light We Cannot See" is a novel that I just finished up a few months ago, and really enjoyed Doerr. He is an excellent writer who it's good light reading that makes you think, but doesn't make you doesn't tax your energy. So it's refreshing in that regard. And highly recommend.

Reema Moussa 22:51
It's a good reminder that that reading for pleasure doesn't have to be lost in these crazy busy times that we're living in. I think I'm you know, in law school right now and the concept of like, just opening a non-law related book is like, what? But a good reminder that you need that to kind of refresh. Especially if reading is is a passion so.

Patrick Kyhos   23:27
It is, and the "Tallinn Manual" is definitely light reading.

Reema Moussa   23:35
Before we finish up, I'd love to know, what are you looking forward to? Are there any exciting opportunities or events sort of on the horizon that you're looking towards?

Patrick Kyhos   23:51
Personally, I am looking to forward to the end of semester and my classes so I can sleep again. Also, always looking forward to Thanksgiving, one of my favorite holidays of the year. But more closer to home and more closer on the calendar I'm looking forward to DC FinTech week, which is next week sponsored by my current institution, Georgetown University, which is bringing together industry government and thought leaders to examine digital apps assets, and really start to think through the future of what will work what won't work in terms of policy regulation, enforcement, and enablement.

Reema Moussa   24:46
Awesome. Well, that'll be happening probably around the same time that this, this episode goes up. So to anyone listening, check it out, and see if you can make maybe at the tail end. That's, that's exciting and is it a fully in person event?

Patrick Kyhos   25:07
It is in person with a hybrid option to connect virtually. So if this podcast does go out in time, check it out and make it out.

Reema Moussa   25:20
Awesome. Thanks so much for taking the time to chat Patrick. It was lovely to talk to you.

Patrick Kyhos   25:25
And it's a pleasure and thanks everyone for putting up with us and hearing us out for the past couple minutes.

Reema Moussa   25:35
Hearing our not so subtle Foundry plugs that's for sure.

Patrick Kyhos   25:41
Hey, I think we did a pretty good job of sneaking them in.

Unknown Speaker   25:46
[Laughter]

Reema Moussa   25:50
That's it for this episode. Hope you enjoyed listening to this conversation and Fellow Highlight with former president of the Foundry Patrick Kyhos and we'll catch you next time. Huge thank you to Lama

Mohammed, our Social Coordinator, and Allyson McReynolds for
Accessibility Coordinator for all their help in making this episode
happen.