

Cybersecurity Awareness Campaign: Webinar 1

Quantum Computing & Cybersecurity: What Everyone Should Know

Wednesday 16 September 2026, 10:30 - 11:30 CEST

Register here: <https://www.qfence-project.eu/mec-events/webinar-quantum-computing-cybersecurity-what-everyone-should-know/>

Quantum computing is no longer just a futuristic concept. It is rapidly becoming a reality, with governments, industry, and researchers investing heavily in technologies that could transform the way we solve complex problems. But alongside its enormous potential comes an important question: **what could it mean for our digital security?**

Beyond the headlines and technical jargon, what does quantum computing actually mean? Could it affect your online banking, the security of your healthcare data, the smart services in your city, your workplace network, or even the satellite systems that power navigation and communications? How real are the risks, and what is already being done to prepare for them?

Join us for an engaging online event where leading experts will separate fact from fiction and explore how quantum computing could reshape the digital services we rely on every day. Through practical examples and real-world use cases, you'll discover why this technology matters, what challenges it presents for cybersecurity, and how Europe is preparing for a quantum-secure future.

No technical background required – just curiosity.

Agenda:

5 min | Introduction: Welcome to the Quantum Era

Speaker: *Emily David, Mandat International*

Description: Welcome to the webinar and an introduction to the growing importance of quantum computing in today's digital world. Discover what you can expect from the session, why this topic is becoming increasingly relevant for citizens, businesses, and public services, and how understanding it today can help us prepare for the technologies of tomorrow.

10 min | Topic 1: Everyone Is Talking About Quantum Computing. But Why?

Speaker: *Cédric Crettaz, Mandat International (MI)*

Description: Quantum computing is making headlines across the globe, but separating reality from hype isn't always easy. This talk introduces the fundamental ideas behind quantum computing, explains why it is considered one of the most promising technological breakthroughs of our time, and explores how it differs from the computers we use every day.

10 min | Topic 2: Can Quantum Computers Really Break Today's Encryption?

Speaker: *Jarosław Mischczak, The Institute of Theoretical and Applied Informatics (IITIS)*

Description: Our digital world relies on encryption to protect everything from banking and healthcare to business networks and satellites. But could quantum computers one day break today's cryptography? This talk explains how encryption works, why it matters, and the growing "Harvest Now, Decrypt Later" threat: data intercepted today could be decrypted in the future by powerful quantum computers.

10 min | Topic 3: What does our digital future look like? Perspectives from DG CONNECT, European Commission

Speaker: *Bernardo Lopes Gonçalves, Policy Officer, DG CONNECT, European Commission*

Description: *TBC with speaker:* What could quantum technologies mean for our digital future? This talk will explore the relevance of quantum computing beyond the research community and introduce DG CONNECT's activities in this area, providing a broader European perspective on the transition towards a quantum-secure future.

10 min | Topic 4: How Is Europe Preparing for the Quantum Era? Presentation of the Q-FENCE vision

Speaker: *John McLaughlin, South East Technological University (SETU)*

Description: Preparing for the quantum era requires collaboration between researchers, industry, policymakers, and cybersecurity experts. This session explores how Europe is driving research and innovation in quantum-safe technologies, why action is needed today, and how initiatives such as Q-FENCE are contributing to a more secure and resilient digital future.

10 min | Live Q&A: Ask the Experts

Moderation: *MI, Questions open to all speakers*

Description: An interactive discussion where participants can ask questions, challenge common misconceptions, and engage directly with experts in quantum computing and cybersecurity. Whether you're curious about the technology itself, its impact on everyday life, or the future of digital security, this is your opportunity to join the conversation.

5 min | Closing Remarks: Looking Ahead: Building a Quantum-Secure Future

Speaker: MI

Description: A brief wrap-up of the webinar's key takeaways, reflections on why preparing for the quantum era starts today, and an invitation to continue the conversation by following Q-FENCE and future awareness activities. Promotion of survey to gather participant feedback from webinar.



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