Five questions for Brad Judy[1]

October is widely known as the spookiest month of the year and not just because of Halloween. It's also Cybersecurity Awareness Month, when we consider how to protect ourselves from cybercriminals lurking in dark corners on the internet.

Fortunately, Brad Judy, CU's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), and the university's cybersecurity teams make things a lot less scary. Every day, they're hard at work navigating the latest cyberthreats to keep CU and its information secure while shining a light on how we can reduce our risks online.

Judy began his long history with the university as an undergraduate at CU Boulder in the 1990s when he installed hardware and software in computer labs on campus while earning his degree in sociology. He joined Boulder's information technology team full-time after graduating and worked there for more than a decade, transitioning to the campus's information security team before leaving briefly to take a job in another state.

Upon moving back to Colorado in 2012, Judy rejoined CU, this time on the information security team at system administration. As he approaches his 26th year with the university, and to help kick off Cybersecurity Awareness Month, Judy spoke with CU Connections about everything from his top priorities as CISO, to what we have in common with cybercriminals, to what he loves about Colorado.

1. What are your priorities as CISO?

The majority of cybersecurity work at CU is happening on the campuses, so a big part of my job is doing whatever I can to support the campus cybersecurity teams and make their jobs easier. That includes achieving efficiencies on the tools they use and aggregating licenses to lower costs. My team also develops many of the campuses' training and educational tools.

I'm also focused on working with university leaders at system administration to ensure they're informed about current risks and the work we're doing to mitigate them. And then of course, my team and I oversee the operational cybersecurity for system administration, actively working to protect various systems, including those for HR, finance and other units.

2. How is AI affecting cybersecurity?

Many people are turning to AI to make their jobs easier and their work more efficient, including cybercriminals. Just as we're seeing AI being introduced to cybersecurity tools to add efficiencies, we're also seeing criminals use AI to create phishing messages and write code for cyberattacks. Criminals are using AI for the same reasons so many of us use AI: They're trying to make their lives easier and spend fewer hours working.

As people at CU start using AI in their jobs, CU's cybersecurity teams and I are focused on ensuring that they're using it safely. We strive to fully understand these tools and how they work so we can help people make informed decisions about how to use them appropriately, what types of data they should share and what types of business functions should rely on them.

3. How do you keep pace with rapidly evolving cyberthreats?

Like any field that moves fast, it's a challenge to stay on top of things in cybersecurity, and it requires us to be informed about many other issues as well, including the broader news. We're affected by global politics and shifts in business. You can wake up one morning and some national or global event changes your entire workday.

One of the things we ask candidates when they apply for cybersecurity positions at CU is how they stay informed. There's no shortage of tech communication sources, including various websites, Mastodon, social media and countless others, and we use a wide variety. We also rely on each other because there's so much information out there. We're more than happy to share with each other. We have great teams, great people with an immense amount

of experience and a lot of new ideas.

We also talk to our peers at other institutions around the country and, in some cases, around the world about what they're seeing or a problem we're trying to tackle. I love the community we have in higher education and cybersecurity.

4. What is one thing we all can do to stay safe – or safer – online?

The biggest thing is to listen to your gut. If something seems off, don't be afraid to ask about it. If you get an email from your boss, but it doesn't sound like your boss, call or text them to confirm they sent it. If you get an urgent email about an Amazon order, don't respond via email – go to your Amazon account and see if you have anything in your order history. It's better to ask the question than to fall for something. Criminals exploit the fact that people are busy and that they want to be helpful. They're going after human nature.

Everyone has a role in cybersecurity at CU. Of course, the depth of that role depends on your job. But being thoughtful about the information you're handling and how you handle it is probably the single biggest responsibility we all have.

5. How do you unplug from work?

I often have some sort of hands-on creative project going on. I just finished building a table lamp from a 1950s television I gutted, for example. I have a bunch of antique furniture around the house that I've picked up at thrift stores, stripped down and restored. I also like getting off the beaten path and I love that we've got a little bit of everything in Colorado – from major sports teams to art museums to science to beautiful outdoors and terrific weather. I can often be found in many of the small music venues around Denver when I'm not working. We have a great music scene here.

For more information about Cybersecurity Awareness Month at CU, including resources, webinars and other activities, visit www.cu.edu/cam[2].
[3]

Community gives back at Lynx Day of Service [4]

In breakthrough study, Crnic Institute maps how Down syndrome biology changes with age [5]

Federal shutdown: CU leadership committed to minimizing disruptions[6]

As the federal government shutdown took effect Wednesday, CU's leaders said they would work to protect CU education and research priorities during a time of increased uncertainty.

Here is the communication[7], signed by CU President Todd Saliman and the four campus chancellors, that was distributed Wednesday morning to the CU community:

Dear Colleagues,

Because Congress remains at an impasse over how to temporarily extend federal government operations to allow themselves more time to negotiate final funding levels for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, which begins Oct. 1, the U.S.

government is shut down. The impact of a federal government shutdown to CU will largely depend on its duration. A short-term shutdown will likely result in minimal disruption of day-to-day operations. The impact may be more significant if the shutdown is longer.

The current lapse in appropriations means most activities at federal agencies are paused. While some activities have been deemed “essential” and may continue, most federal activities are considered “nonessential” and have stopped. The White House has broad discretion to determine what is essential and nonessential. During the shutdown, most federal employees will be furloughed. Communications with federal agencies will halt since staff are not allowed to use their work email or phones. In the past, federal research agencies have not been allowed to review proposals, convene review panels or advisory committees, issue new awards or make manual payments to existing awards. In other words, nearly all research and innovation related activities within the federal government will stop until funding is restored.

Federal student aid levels for the 2025-26 academic year will not be impacted by a shutdown since they are already in statute. These levels were set in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2025 (H.R. 1968[8]), which was signed into law this March. Disruptions to the disbursement of federal student aid may occur, however, and become more likely if the shutdown is prolonged. The U.S. Department of Education announced[9] it will furlough 85 percent of its employees in the Office of Federal Student Aid during the shutdown. These furloughs are expected to exacerbate already reduced staff capacity at the Department following Reductions in Force (RIFs) implemented earlier this year. In addition, the White House Office of Management and Budget instructed[10] all federal agencies to implement additional RIFs that will remain effective even after federal appropriations are restored.

During previous shutdowns federal agencies posted guidance, or contingency plans on the White House website. Since the White House announced[11] it will not link to those plans this time, CU is doing our best to catalog agency contingency plans on our own Federal Relations website[12].

We recognize the uncertainty and concern precipitated by a federal government shutdown. We are committed to keeping you informed, minimizing disruptions to the campuses as best as we can and working with Congress, other universities and the national associations to do our best to protect CU education and research priorities during the shutdown and as FY26 negotiations continue.

Sincerely,

Todd Saliman, CU President

Ken Christensen, CU Denver Chancellor

Don Elliman, CU Anschutz Chancellor

Justin Schwartz, CU Boulder Chancellor

Jennifer Sobanet, UCCS Chancellor

Collaborate, discover and contribute during CU Boulder Research and Innovation Week Oct. 6-10 [13]

UCCS partners with Nova Space to support new MBA Space Cyber Enterprise Management emphasis [14]

Approach menopause with knowledge and resources through Ovia+ [15]

Federal transition update: Government Funding, more[16]

From Sept. 26, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on Government Funding, White House H-1B Proclamation, OMB and OSTP R&D Priorities Memo, ED 2026-27 FAFSA Opening, Science Nominee Votes, and UCLA Federal Funds Reinstatement.

Click here to read the post.[17]

Also from Sept. 26, this monthly update from CU Federal Relations includes information on FY26 Appropriations, Rep. Crow Town Hall, Rep. Neguse Law Visit, Football Attendees, Recent Congressional Staff Visits, and COBRT Roundtables.

Click here to read the post.[18]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the CU System Federal Transitions Updates[19] page.

Teitelbaum is new faculty director for strategic events and public discourse [20]

Liban, Beeson launch new films [21]

Gladstone to keynote Indigenous Peoples Day celebration Oct. 13 [22]

CU Boulder’s Child Learning Center celebrates 50 years[23]

CU Anschutz to offer master’s of science in midwifery[24]

Magic, robots, and alcohol! Cool Science Festival finding fun ways to teach kids (and adults) STEM[25]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-brad-judy[2] http://www.cu.edu/cam[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/five_questions_judy_wedding_10-02-2025.jpeg[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/community-gives-back-lynx-day-service[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/breakthrough-study-crnic-institute-maps-how-down-syndrome-biology-changes-age[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/federal-shutdown-cu-leadership-committed-minimizing-disruptions[7] https://view.com.cu.edu/?qs=cc777a6c77f4b99fdc3d5e9bfd523c5318251cf277054bedf01c31e3a2772ce38321c59af519d052ecf71aad4af1cb142cb85be7d75d9679e2f62a1bd588eddf3218cd23fc1822293b9fb9bdc89b25c4[8] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.com.cu.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D25468e5f63dddb2f1fb0e4ed164d5d421e9b9177076be54bc1bf16ca46731a53617cd405484736080779a5643dc1b8148bd15fa616f488f3&data=05%7C02%7Cdedrick%40cu.edu%7C8abf6c7f3565412415b808de00f2ee65%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C638949240891450189%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2Fvm%2FSrtZnXY6bYgqowx5n5smWHNy3k7jBvLRuKh6dT0%3D&reserved=0[9] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.com.cu.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D25468e5f63dddb2f94bbc2f19034901703e1678dafe397eb2d740148d1fa2544958650f22af78743831c3b54fd8fcfd7a4e8bb3c42fbe381&data=05%7C02%7Cdedrick%40cu.edu%7C8abf6c7f3565412415b808de00f2ee65%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C638949240891478985%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NgQqSgXAwjmsxF54KCIfgMA1Omm%2BTfPXR43kIsjJop0%3D&reserved=0[10] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.com.cu.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D25468e5f63dddb2fcf9d4b0ba8229f02279a21df4bcfe9dc168bc50a6a8bff93f6b8c9827631641fa435f7b3267f82d36ab5deabf18284fa&data=05%7C02%7Cdedrick%40cu.edu%7C8abf6c7f3565412415b808de00f2ee65%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C638949240891508743%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eUR20jIQhL5mQ3ueo7zsO6zTANjTXiHHl0xnMCV1yEU%3D&reserved=0[11] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.com.cu.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D25468e5f63dddb2ff86f29a35cbb29755440fc8762c3f3a8846aef09370df5f7347618c5e5057fae33e43fbbc0e2237697e0f456f590cb47&data=05%7C02%7Cdedrick%40cu.edu%7C8abf6c7f3565412415b808de00f2ee65%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C638949240891541396%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rXAaksEwJTGDU8JQpHkOZy8odMbcuuYzGS5e3HIxgEg%3D&reserved=0[12] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.com.cu.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D25468e5f63dddb2f1213373c5184aae0d1ca6eb7bc73bcdc0d660f8b3c43ebff1b5e89a7e449be191e489f234cc744ecbb06e91bcb043204&data=05%7C02%7Cdedrick%40cu.edu%7C8abf6c7f3565412415b808de00f2ee65%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C638949240891574015%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=forUaPhrZNd1ghhx11%2Bri0rm%2BLndTqws3384tdDMUBU%3D&reserved=0[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/collaborate-discover-and-contribute-during-cu-boulder-research-and-innovation-week-oct-6-10[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-partners-nova-space-support-new-mba-space-cyber-enterprise-management-emphasis[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/approach-menopause-knowledge-and-resources-through-ovia[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/federal-transition-update-government-funding-more[17] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-government-update-92625[18] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/cu-federal-relations-monthly-update-92625[19] https://www.cu.edu/federal-transition-updates[20] https://connections.cu.edu/people/teitelbaum-new-faculty-director-strategic-events-and-public-discourse[21] https://connections.cu.edu/people/liban-beeson-launch-new-films[22] https://connections.cu.edu/people/gladstone-keynote-indigenous-peoples-day-celebration-oct-13[23] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/cu-boulder-s-child-learning-center-celebrates-50-years[24] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/cu-anschutz-offer-master-s-science-midwifery[25] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/magic-robots-and-alcohol-cool-science-festival-finding-fun-ways-teach-kids-and-adults-stem