

SAMPLE SPEECH

Thank you to Bart Johnson of the International Association of Police Chiefs and to my friend Michael Chertoff for your kind invitation today.

In addition to all the techies in the room, I appreciate being here for the chance to be in front of my old friends in the law enforcement community.

You know as a former FBI guy working organized crime in Chicago, I had the privilege of speaking before the International Law Enforcement Academy one time over in Budapest, Hungary.

Now this group had cops from all over the world, from Europe to Russia, the Middle East and everywhere in between. But I had a theory. My theory was there is one thing that unites all cops, from all countries. So I went for it.

I went and dropped a pretty lame cops eating donuts joke. Now, I thought it was funny but as I looked out in the crowd it was a speaker's worst fear - nobody was laughing. But as the translation took a few seconds to go through everyone's headphone, to my great relief the whole crowd burst into a big belly laugh.

So there you go, cops eating donuts is funny everywhere.

You know I am glad to see you all coming together though today to see if the private sector can help the government solve a big, real world problem. We are trying this approach in my committee actually. My Ranking Democrat Dutch Ruppersberger and I came together and said what can do to help solve this huge threat from cyber security. Like you

have realized, we both knew there was no way the government could do it all.

So we decided the best way to solve this problem would be to enlist all the smart IT people from the private sector to get them in the game combating this massive threat of cyber attacks. So we wrote a bill that allows the private sector to receive classified threat information from the government in a classified environment so they can protect their own networks from attackers from all over the world who are trying to shut their servers down, steal their customers private information, steal their intellectual property and all kinds of other fun stuff.

The issue here today is using the huge potential that cloud technology offers us, while ensuring proper protections and security are in place.

Cloud technology brings huge potential efficiencies and cost savings. The cloud promises us the ability to use fewer resources to accomplish more and better results, process vast amounts of data quickly and to greatly expand access to the data from smart phones to laptops to tablets. These and other advantages are already radically changing business. The same cost savings and productivity benefits could be available to government.

The cloud, however, also brings uncertainties.

- We don't fully know the security implications of the technology and don't yet foolproof techniques to protect cloud systems.

- Cloud systems tend to bring our most important and sensitive information together in one logical place where it could be snatched up in one fell swoop.
- Using the cloud means we must trust yet another organization, the cloud service provider, whom we haven't had to trust before.

All of these facts have led many to raise concerns about the future and limitation from the cloud as it relates to government networks.

That said there is no technical reason why cloud computing systems cannot be made just as, or even more secure than the isolated and disconnected systems we rely on now. In many cases, cloud services you can buy today can actually be more secure than many of our current stand-alone systems.

The barriers are not just technical though. There are issues with data handling and security regulations which may not work with the centralized, networked, third-party service provider business model.

To make best use of cloud technology, the government will have to update its information management rules so that it can use the most current and effective technology available. By the same token, cloud service providers must understand their government customers' special needs and provide strong security features. Moreover, state, local, and federal governments ideally should be in on the same page on the use of the cloud in order to maximize the effectiveness of this solution, which of course is no small task in and of itself.

The government cannot ignore its responsibility to protect information that has been given to it in trust. Security lapses in a government setting can result in consequences far more severe than lost revenue to

a bottom line. People's lives can be destroyed or lost. In that kind of an environment, we must not blindly trade safety and security for efficiency and cost savings. Believe me if somebody who shouldn't gets ahold of Granny's emails or medical records, there's going to be heck to pay at my town halls back home!

I have met with executives from major technology companies and have expressed my support for using the latest technology but I think it's critical that we don't rush to use technology whose security we do not yet completely understand. In response to a clear demand, cloud businesses like Amazon, Google, and Microsoft are creating cloud services tailored to the specific information security and reliability needs of some government customers. More needs to be done to apply these kinds of services to security conscious customers from law enforcement, national defense, and intelligence.

I think we all believe that creatively using the best innovations the world has to offer is critical to solving the many challenges before us.

Before I close, I'd like to share with you a story.

Right as the Afghanistan war was kicking into gear, I had the great opportunity to visit during Operation Anaconda. You might remember this was the phase of the war to clear out the Tora Bora mountain region which was then still an al Qaeda and Taliban stronghold.

Well it so happens that the headquarters unit that is supposed to be helping to coordinate the fight against the Taliban in this effort got dropped on the wrong side of the mountain that day. Two dozen men with mostly communication equipment and very light weapons found themselves surrounded by 500 hardened Taliban fighters.

The Army Lieutenant in charge scrambled to make the best of the situation. He called in for support and told the guys on the mountain to just hold off the enemy for as long as they could and to keep them back. They took 8 casualties in the first ten minutes. And many of these guys in the first line of the fighting were more senior, in their 30s.

The Lieutenant telling me this story was tough. Big guy, crew cut, 6 foot 5, 280 pounds, I Love Mom tattoo, the whole nine yards. The guy was tougher than woodpecker lips.

As he's telling me this story he got a tear in his eye and he said after that he saw one of the most amazing things he had ever seen in his many years of military service. The guys who had come in to relieve the headquarters unit came upon their downed brothers. These 18, 19 and 20 year old enlisted kids from all walks of life in America, from every demographic, laid down on top of their fallen officers to ensure they didn't get shot again and returned fire at the Taliban.

As he's choking up, he tells me Congressman, I have no idea what you all do back there in Washington but you're doing something right. This country is doing something right if these young men still risk their lives to protect the senior officers which were appointed to serve over them by the leaders of the United States of America. This country is still worth fighting for.

So thanks for what you do. Thanks for being part of the solution to work towards a better, more secure America, a place I know we all believe is still worth fighting for.

With that, I am happy to answer any questions you might have.