THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
CYBER SECURITY POLICY AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Thoughtful Analysis of Cyber Security Issues

GW CSPRI Newsletter

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From the **Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute** of **The George Washington University**, www.cspri.seas.gwu.edu.

This newsletter is a weekly summary of events related to cyber security policy and research, with a special focus on developments and events in the Washington, DC area.

Faculty and student readers of this newsletter with new and important cyber security research to report (especially new papers or results by GW faculty and students) are encouraged to send notifications of this to cspriaa@gwu.edu. A short (up to three sentences) description of why you think the research is important is required.

Contents

Upcoming Events

-May 10, 10:00 a.m., Call for National Cybersecurity Strategy - The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics will call for an increased commitment on the part of the government and industry to establish and implement a viable national cybersecurity strategy. The Zenger Room of the National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW. More information.

-May 10, 10:00 a.m., **Protecting Mobile Privacy: Your Smartphones, Tablets, Cell Phones and Your Privacy** - The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing. Witnesses will include **Jessica Rich**, deputy director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection; **Jason Weinstein**, deputy assistant attorney general in the DOJ's Criminal

Division; **Justin Brookman**, Center for Democracy & Technology; **Alan Davidson**, head of public policy for Google; and **Bud Tribble**, vice president of software technology for Apple. Room 226, Dirksen Building. More information.

-May 10-11, Safeguarding Health Information: Building Assurance Through HIPPA Security - The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights are co-hosting this 4th annual conference, which will explore the present state of health information security, and practical strategies, tips and techniques for implementing the HIPAA Security Rule. Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. More information.

-May 11, 10:00 a.m., **The USA PATRIOT Act: Dispelling the Myths** - Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security will hold a hearing. Room 2141, Rayburn Building. More information.

-May 12, **Economic Ramifications of Cyber Threats and Vulnerabilities to the Private Sector** - The Senate Commerce Committee will hold a hearing. Witnesses will include **Gordon Snow**, assistant director of the FBI's Cyber Division; **Harriet Pearson**, chief privacy officer at IBM; **Sara Santarelli**, chief network security officer, Verizon; and **Thomas Kellermann**, chief technology officer, AirPatrol Corp. Room 253, Russell Building. More information.

Announcements

-Student volunteers are needed to provide 3.5 hours of their time during the 2011 Computers, Freedom, and Privacy Conference at Georgetown University Law School. Volunteers are needed to assist with registration (Noon-5 June 13, and 8am-3pm June 14-16) and to attend presentations June 14-16 Noon-4:00 pm to provide logistical support (e.g. water for speakers, make sure AV systems are functioning, Internet access is operational, communicate problems to conference planners, or help direct attendees to workshops, tutorials, etc.)

Those who volunteer for 7 hours for the conference (any two 3.5 hour blocks of time) will be given full registration for the entire conference. If you can only volunteer for 3.5 hours you will have one day's conference registration, not including the day you will volunteer for the conference. Volunteers will be invited to an end of conference reception and be recognized in the program for the event.

Students interested in volunteering should email cfp2011@epic.org.

-The 21st annual Computers, Freedom and Privacy (CFP) 2011 conference will be held on June 14-16, 2011, at the Law Center, Georgetown University, in Washington DC. This conference engages multi-stakeholder experts from technology and policy. The meeting will have the participation of government officials, the private sector, technologists,

policymakers, activists and civil society for discussions about the information society and the future of technology, innovation, and freedom. Keynote speakers at the conference include Cameron Kerry, General Counsel Department of Commerce; Danah Boyd, Microsoft; Sami ben Gharbia, Global Voices; and Bruce Schneier, author and cyber security expert. The theme of CFP2011 (http://cfp.org/2011) is “The Future is Now.” Panels scheduled so far include:

> The role of social media in the democracy movement in the Middle East and North Africa;
> A Clash of Civilizations: The EU and US Negotiate the Future of Privacy;
> Cybersecurity, Freedom and Privacy;
> The Global Challenge of Mandatory Data Retention Schemes.

Early registration ends May 20, 2011. Discounts for ACM members, academics, NGOs, and Government. Register at http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=944943. Conference hotel rates end May 15, 2011. The conference hotel is the Hilton Washington Embassy Row, 2015 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036, 800-695-7460 --- Request the room block for ACM June 14-16, 2011.

Legislative Lowdown

-Federal officials, lawmakers and industry leaders have reached consensus that any forthcoming cybersecurity legislation should grant the Energy Department authority to order utilities to take action when there is an emergency threat to critical elements of the electricity grid, NextGov reports. On April 15, Senator Murkowski and committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., released a 12-page bipartisan draft (PDF) of legislation aimed at protecting bulk power systems and electric infrastructure from cyberattacks. If the panel approves a final draft, it would become part of a larger package after the Senate receives the Obama administration's plan, Murkowski said. Other items in the committee's draft are still being debated. The panel's emergency proposal covers so-called critical electrical infrastructure, or systems that generate and distribute electricity for interstate commerce, which if impaired would harm national security.

Meanwhile, a draft proposal circulating in the Senate that would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee limited cybersecurity oversight of state-jurisdictional electric distribution lines met with resistance from industry leaders. Platts.com reports that at a hearing last week, the head of North American Electric Reliability Corp., the entity responsible for establishing grid reliability standards for the bulk electric system in the contiguous 48 US states (but not local distribution facilities), argued that FERC should not be given that additional oversight unless NERC is also granted the same authority to set standards for cybersecurity issues affecting distribution lines.

-The chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee said that he plans this week to introduce legislation to protect consumer privacy on the Internet. The proposal expected

from **Sen. Jay Rockefeller** (D-W. Va.) will introduce legislation that contains a "Do Not Track" provision and gives the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) the authority to take enforcement action against companies that do not honor consumer requests, The Hill writes.

In other privacy policy news, NextGov writes that Reps. **Edward Markey** (D-Mass.) and **Joe Barton** (R-Texas), said that they plan this week to circulate a discussion draft of their promised children's online privacy legislation, which also will include a "Do Not Track" provision.

-On Thursday, House lawmakers are expected to begin consideration of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, a bill that authorizes funding for sixteen federal agencies involved in intelligence-related activities. The House bill and a version in the Senate both contain provisions intended to detect and alert on transfers of information to entities such as Wikileaks. The Senate version also creates a new administrative process to be used against government employees who transfer classified information, and would make it easier for the government to prosecute such cases.

Cyber Security Policy News

-The killing of Al Quaeda leader Osama bin Laden led to a huge seizure of PCs, hard drives and flash drives, a bounty of information that could be a treasure trove of data of intelligence on the elusive terror network. Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday, White House National Security Adviser **Tom Donilon** said the data recovered from bin Laden's compound was the largest cache of intelligence ever derived from a single terrorist.

-New York Attorney General has subpoenaed Sony regarding the PlayStation and Sony Online Entertainment breaches that have exposed the personal and financial information as many as 100 million consumers, according to Bloomberg. The attorney general is seeking information about the way it represented its network security to customers.

At a hearing last week, Sony officials pointed the finger at vigilante hacker group Anonymous, which initially denied the allegation. But according to reporting from the Financial Times, two veterans of Anonymous have acknowledged that members of the cyber-activist group are likely to have been behind the breach.

-EMC's security division **RSA** was but one of dozens of Fortune 500 companies that were infiltrated by Chinese hackers over the past year, KrebsOnSecurity.com reports. The hackers who broke into RSA appear to have leveraged some of the very same Web sites, tools and services used in that attack to infiltrate dozens of other companies during the past year, including some of the Fortune 500 companies protected by RSA, new information suggests. What’s more, the assailants moved their operations from those sites very recently, after their locations were revealed in a report published online by the U.S.

Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

-**Mozilla**, the maker of the **Firefox** Web browser, has refused a request from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that it ban a Firefox plug-in called MafiaaFire. Because the government seizes only the site name and not the actual servers, it's a simple matter for the affected sites to buy a new domain name with a non-US registrar and be back in business within hours, writes ArsTechnica's **Nate Anderson**. Many have done so. The MafiaaFire add-on automatically redirects Firefox users who enter the old site names to the new site names, making the seizure process even less effective.

-The **Federal Trade Commission** last week settled lawsuits with two firms over data breaches affecting more than 65,000 people. The FTC reached settlements with **Ceridian** and **Lookout Services**. The FTC alleged that, despite claims by the companies that they maintained adequate data security, they in fact maintained large amounts of sensitive information about the employees of business customers, including social security numbers, and failed to employ reasonable and appropriate security measures to protect the data. The settlement orders bar misrepresentations, including misleading claims about the privacy, confidentiality, or integrity of any personal information collected from or about consumers. They require the companies to implement a comprehensive information security program and to obtain independent, third party security audits every other year for 20 years.

-**Jeff Moss**, founder of DEF-CON, the world's largest hacker conference, and Black Hat, a global technical security conference, has been named Vice President and Chief Security Officer of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the non-profit organization that oversees the global domain name registration system.

The Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute (CSPRI) is a center for GW and the Washington area to promote technical research and policy analysis of problems that have a significant computer security and information assurance component. More information is available at our website, http://www.cspri.seas.gwu.edu.