

Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

The Weekly Newsletter of The George Washington University Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute

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August 31, 2015

Ten (10) events scheduled in the Greater Washington Area in the next few weeks.

Dr. Rachele Heller recognized for her programming and mentorship



Dr. Heller is a co-PI of CSPRI's [SFS Scholarship Program](#), professor of computer science, the associate provost for academic affairs at the Mount Vernon Campus, and director of the Elizabeth Somers Women's Leadership Program at The George Washington University. She has been named among the 100 'Inspiring Women in STEM' INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine.

Read more [here](#).

Events

- September 1
[Mid-Atlantic Security Conference](#)
- September 2-3
[Safeguarding Health Information](#)
- September 4
[2600 Arlington Meetup](#)
- September 9-10
[Intelligence and National Security Summit](#)
- September 9-11
[2015 Cybersecurity Innovation Forum](#)
- September 10
[Managing Cyber Risk and the Role of Insurance](#)
- September 10
[Cyber 6.0](#)
- September 10
[Senior Executive Cyber Security Conference](#)
- September 14-16
[EnergySec Security and Compliance](#)

NSA Update

-A federal court last week lifted an injunction against the National Security Agency's bulk spying program, overturning a lower court's 2013 stayed decision that had deemed the surveillance program "almost Orwellian" and likely unconstitutional, the National Journal reports. "A panel of three Republican-nominated judges on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals determined that a conservative activist and civil-liberties groups did not have standing to challenge the constitutionality of the program, first exposed by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden two years ago," write Kaveh Waddell and Dustin Volz. "The judges reaffirmed Friday that the plaintiff did not demonstrate the "concrete and particularized" injury required to be able to sue because he could not prove that his own metadata was caught up in the NSA's dragnet. The panel did not rule directly on the legality of the program." Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for
detailed
descriptions

FTC Update

-In a landmark decision, an appeals court ruled last week that the U.S. Federal Trade Commission does indeed have the authority to take action against companies that fail to protect customer data. "The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit [upheld](#) the FTC's 2012 lawsuit against hotel and time-share operator Wyndham Worldwide, reports Computerworld. "The FTC filed a complaint against Wyndham for three data breaches in 2008 and 2009 that led to more than \$10.6 million in fraudulent charges," [writes](#) Grant Gross. "Wyndham was one of two companies that had challenged the FTC's authority to enforce cybersecurity standards under the unfair and deceptive practices provisions of the FTC Act. Critics have argued the agency has no clearly defined cybersecurity standards for companies to follow."

NIST releases guidelines for energy companies

-The National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) last week issued new guidelines that aim to teach energy companies to protect their digital and physical assets by using a platform that could let them see who has access to any part of a system at any time. As NextGov's Mohana Ravindranath reports, the federal government wants utilities companies to keep people from gaining unauthorized access to buildings, networks, data and control systems and potentially triggering power outages. Read the full story [here](#).

AP suing the Department of Justice

-The Associated Press is suing the Department of Justice to unearth information about the government's use of a fake news story to catch a teenager suspected of calling in bomb threats, The Hill reports. "Along with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the AP asked a district court on Thursday to force the department to turn over records regarding the FBI's impersonation of a journalist and creation of a fake story in 2007," [writes](#) Julian Hatter. "Last October, federal documents revealed that an FBI agent had [pretended to be an AP reporter](#) in order to target a teenager suspected of making bomb threats to a local high school in 2007. The agent fabricated a draft of an AP story and placed it on a website made to look like *The Seattle Times* in order to plant malicious

software on the suspect's computer."

Air Force slogan related to social media

-The Air Force is rolling out a new slogan that updates the classic WWII propaganda slogan for the modern era: 'Loose tweets destroy fleets.' Jeff Ward-Bailey reports for the Christian Science Monitor that in March, a group purportedly connected to ISIS posted an online "hit list" of [American soldiers](#) it said were helping with a US airstrike campaign against ISIS in Syria and Iraq. "The list included the names and home addresses of 100 service members, as well as photos of those members," he [wrote](#). "Defense officials said at the time that the information hadn't been posted as the result of a hack or data breach; rather, it had been compiled from publicly available information the service members had posted on social media networks."

About this Newsletter

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. It is published by the Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute (CSPRI) of the George Washington University. CSPRI is a center for GW and the Washington area that promotes technical research and policy analysis of topics in or related to cybersecurity. More information is available at our website, <http://www.cspri.seas.gwu.edu>

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