

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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June 1, 2015

Six (6) Cyber security events are scheduled in the Greater Washington Area in the next few weeks.

Legislative Lowdown

-As of 12:01 a.m. today, parts of the Patriot Act expired. "Senator Rand Paul, Republican of Kentucky, blocked an extension of the program during an extraordinary and at times caustic Sunday session of the Senate," [The New York Times reports](#).

Some have argued that Paul was able to accomplish this due to Senator Mitch McConnell and other national security figures severely underestimated the national mood regarding privacy and security. "The expiration of surveillance authority demonstrates a profound shift in American attitudes since the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when national security was pre-eminent in both parties. Fourteen years after that attack, even as American conflicts continue abroad, a swell of privacy concerns stemming from both the vast expansion of communication systems and an increasing distrust of government's use of data has turned those concerns on their head," [the article continued](#).

These changes, however, are not without limitations. [The article goes on to say](#) that it is possible for the Justice Department to "invoke a so-called

Events

June 1-2
[Takedown Con](#)

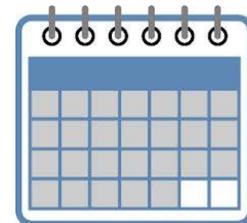
June 1-4
[Computer-aided Cryptography](#)

June 2
[IRS & Taxpayer Information](#)

June 3
[DC Metro Cyber Security Summit](#)

June 4
[DNS with Authentication](#)

June 5
[2600 Arlington Meetup](#)



Click [here](#) for detailed descriptions

grandfather clause to keep using those powers for investigations that had started before June 1, and there are additional workarounds investigators may use to overcome the lapse in the authorizations."

Cyber Security Policy News

DOJ working to change the issuing of warrants for computer searches

-The Department of Justice has moved a step closer to making a controversial change in how judges issue warrants for computer searches, The Hill reports.

"The department [confirmed](#) to multiple news outlets that a United States Courts committee has approved its request to give judges the power to authorize warrants for electronic searches in multiple jurisdictions or when investigators don't know the physical location of a device," writes Cory Bennett. "Under the current rules, judges can only grant warrants for their own jurisdictions, with some narrow exceptions." Read more [here](#).

Silk Road creator sentenced to life in prison

-The man convicted of running the Silk Road, an online bazaar and black market selling everything from hard drugs like heroin to hit men was convicted of his role in creating the marketplace last week, drawing a sentence of life in prison for his crimes, CNet [reports](#). The convicted black marketer pleaded with the judge to no avail: "I've had my youth, and I know you must take away my middle years, but please leave me my old age. "Please leave a small light at the end of the tunnel, an excuse to stay healthy, an excuse to dream of better days ahead and a chance to redeem myself in the free world before I meet my maker."

Finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities in vehicle technology

-The leaders on the House Energy and Commerce asked National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and more than a dozen automakers last week exactly who is in charge of finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities in auto technology, Politico reports. "While threats to vehicle technology currently appear isolated and disparate, as the technology becomes more prevalent, so too will the risks associated with it," reads the letter, signed by a bipartisan group of six E&C members. "Threats and vulnerabilities in vehicle systems may be inevitable, but we cannot allow this to undermine the potential benefits of these technologies," the letter continues. The lawmakers also asked automakers how they address potential vulnerabilities in the supply chain, how they handle technology vulnerabilities and whether they intend to use "over-the-air" updates to patch systems. Read more [here](#).

Skype on hold in Belgium

-A court in Belgium has summoned Skype to appear to answer for its refusal to allow authorities to tap suspects Skype communications as part of a criminal investigation, according to The Irish Times. The question at the center of the case is whether Skype, a voice-over-IP service owned by Microsoft, can be treated as a telecommunications operator in Belgium. Read more [here](#).

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>

CSPRI

202.994.5613. cspri@gwu.edu

Tompkins Hall, Suite 106

725 23rd Street NW

Washington DC, DC 20052