

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 22, 2015

Eleven (11) Cyber security events are scheduled in the Greater Washington Area in the next few weeks.

Legislative Lowdown

-Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.) last week introduced the "Protecting Individuals From Mass Aerial Surveillance Act", which they say will restrict government agents from using drones, cellphone tracking gear and other technology in the skies. Read more at [The Hill](#).

-Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has offered [a bill](#) that would establish a Federal Privacy Commission, to "examine ways in which public agencies and private companies gather data on the people of the United States and the ways in which that data is utilized.

Cyber Security Policy News

Flash audit of OPM

-With lawmakers in the House and Senate set to hold another round of hearings on the breach at the Office of Personnel Management (see calendar above for hearing dates and times), new information is surfacing about the agency's plans to address some of the concerns raised last week by lawmakers. According to the Associated Press, the inspector general for the OPM is sounding an alarm about what it says is the agency's ill-conceived plan to fix

Events

June 22

[Understanding Drones](#)

[DC Bar: On Facebook Matters](#)

June 23

[Cyber & Physical Security Issues for Utilities](#)

[Cyber risk management, operational, and technology requirements](#)

June 24

[OPM Breach: Part II](#)

[DHS' efforts to secure .Gov](#)

[ISSA Baltimore Meetup](#)

June 25

[Federal Cybersecurity & the OPM Breach](#)

[CharmSec Meetup](#)

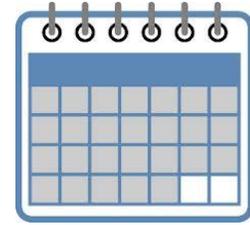
June 26

[Cybersecurity Outlook 2016](#)

June 30

[The truth about securing your system](#)

some of those problems in the wake of a devastating cyberheft of personal information belonging to millions of federal employees. "In a 'flash audit,' circulated to Congress Wednesday, the Inspector General Patrick McFarland raised "serious concerns" about a proposed \$91 million computer overhaul of OPM networks, saying it had not followed management guidelines and relied on a no-bid contract to a single vendor," Ken Dilanian writes. Read more [here](#).



Click [here](#) for detailed descriptions

OPM Update

For those CSPRI readers who need to get up to speed on why the OPM breach has captured so much attention, reporter Brian Krebs has posted a fairly comprehensive [timeline and summary](#) of the analysis so far.

Smarting from the congressional backlash over apparent lapses in cybersecurity at OPM and a string of other federal agencies of late, the White House has ordered federal agencies to take immediate steps to make basic cybersecurity fixes, reports Computerworld. "Agencies were told to scan systems and check logs for indicators of threats, patch critical vulnerabilities 'without delay,' as well as tighten policies and practices for privileged users, including minimizing the number of people in this category and limiting the duration a privileged user can be logged in," [writes](#) Patrick Thibodeau. "The White House also wants to 'dramatically accelerate implementation' of multi-factor authentication, and said intruders "can easily steal or guess" username and passwords. But requiring use of a personal identity verification (the government's name for its smart card), or some other means of multi-factor authentication can 'significantly reduce the risk of adversaries.'"

St. Louis Cardinals breach the Houston Astros

-The FBI is investigating allegations that employees with the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team illegally accessed systems belonging to the Houston Astros team to gain access to sensitive information about players and the team's strategies. The New York Times [reports](#) that the hacking was allegedly made possible because a Cardinals employee who went over to the Astros re-used the same password.

Uber wanting to track users while not in app

-A prominent privacy advocacy group has filed a complaint with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission over Uber's plan to track users even when they're not currently using the ride-sharing mobile app. "The new privacy policy is scheduled to go into effect on July 15. Uber announced it on May 28," [reports](#) Elizabeth Weise for USA Today. "In the complaint, the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) in Washington D.C. cites several privacy issues with the new policy it finds troubling. Under the upcoming policy, the Uber app could collect precise location data about a customer's smart phone, even when the app is running in the background or they have turned

off their GPS location finder."

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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