

# 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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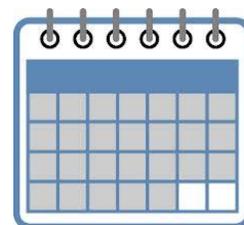
[Blog: The CSPRI Byte](#)

May 11, 2015

**Eleven (14) Cyber security events are scheduled in the Greater Washington Area in the next few weeks.**

## Events

See Upcoming Events at a Glance



Click [here](#) for detailed descriptions

## Congratulations to our graduates



CSPRI would like to extend a big congratulations to our CyberCorps graduates who will complete their degrees this month and over the summer!

## Cyber Security Policy News

### The Patriot Act

-As Americans wait for Congress to decide next month whether to renew the Patriot Act and the vast NSA metadata surveillance program it's made possible, a panel of three appellate judges has made the decision on its own: The Patriot Act, they've now ruled, was never written to authorize the sort of sweeping surveillance the NSA interpreted it to allow. As [Wired.com](#) reports, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled on Thursday that the bulk collection of Americans' phone metadata by the NSA wasn't in fact authorized by section 215 of the Patriot Act, as the intelligence community has argued since the program was first revealed in the leaks of Edward Snowden two years ago." The ruling doesn't immediately halt the domestic phone records surveillance program," [Wired.com's](#) Andy Greenberg [writes](#). "But if it's not overturned by a higher court it could signal the program's end-and it at least forces Congress to choose whether it wishes to explicitly authorize the

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program when the Patriot Act [comes up for renewal on June 1st.](#)"

The ruling prompted a flurry of commentary from current, prospective and former presidential contenders, as each rushed to weigh in on a subject that resonates deeply with voters. The Hill covered various candidates' reactions, noting that reactions were mostly split along party lines - with some exceptions. Hillary Clinton [broke a long silence](#) on the issue, saying she supports the USA Freedom Act, which the House is expected to pass this week and which would end the NSA's bulk and warrantless collection of millions of American's phone records. New Jersey Republican Gov. Chris Christie [said](#) he supports the NSA's phone records collection program, and called for reauthorizing the Patriot Act. Sen. Republican presidential hopeful Rand Paul (Kentucky) noted in an op-ed in Time that he is [doubling down](#) his opposition to the NSA's snooping, and urged the Supreme Court to take the matter into its own hands. John McCain (R-Ariz.) [wondered](#) whether "people seem to have forgotten 9/11" in calling for the removal of the surveillance powers from the NSA.

#### **More on NSA Surveillance**

Speaking of forgetfulness, some of those wielding the NSA surveillance powers appear to have blocked out certain activities that are now deemed illegal by the courts. The director of National Intelligence Jim Clapper said he wasn't lying when he wrongly told Congress in 2013 that the government does not "wittingly" collect information about millions of Americans, according to his top lawyer. As The Hill [reports](#), Clapper says he just plain forgot. "This was not an untruth or a falsehood. This was just a mistake on his part," Robert Litt, the general counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, said during a panel discussion hosted by the Advisory Committee on Transparency on Friday.

#### **Tracking cell phones**

-Two federal appeals courts have now ruled explicitly that police don't need a search warrant to track the location of a suspect's cell phone, and a third court gave law enforcement a partial win on the issue. National Journal reports about the disturbing trend for privacy advocates, who say the law isn't keeping up with advances in technology. Read more [here](#).

### **France moving forward with new surveillance measures**

Meanwhile in France, The French parliament has overwhelmingly approved sweeping new surveillance powers in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris in January that killed 17 people at the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and a kosher grocery in Paris. As The Guardian [writes](#), "the new bill, which allows intelligence agencies to tap phones and emails without seeking permission from a judge, sparked protests from rights groups who claimed it would legalize highly intrusive surveillance methods without guarantees for individual freedom and privacy."

### **DOJ reviewing the use of "Stingrays"**

-In the face of mounting criticism from civil rights groups, lawmakers and privacy advocates, the U.S. Department of Justice has begun a review of the secretive use of "Stingrays," cellphone surveillance technology that mimics cellphone towers, according to [a story](#) in The Wall Street Journal. As Ars Technica [reports](#), not only can these devices be used to determine location by spoofing a cell tower, they can also be used to intercept calls and text messages. Once deployed, the devices intercept data from a target phone as well as information from other innocent phones within the vicinity. For years, federal and local law enforcement have tried to keep their existence a secret while simultaneously upgrading their capabilities.

#### **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](mailto:cspri@gwu.edu)

Tompkins Hall, Suite 106

725 23rd Street NW

Washington DC, DC 20052