

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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Rogers to Speak on Cybersecurity at GW

Next Monday, May

11, Admiral Michael S. Rogers, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command and Director, National Security Agency, visits GW from 10:30-11:45 am to provide an overview of the current state of cybersecurity threats to the United States. He will discuss what U.S. Cyber Command and the National Security Agency are doing to address them, in light of the new Department of Defense cybersecurity strategy released earlier this month. His initial remarks will be followed by a moderated discussion with Center for Cyber & Homeland Security Director Frank Cilluffo and

May 4, 2015

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

Legislative Lowdown

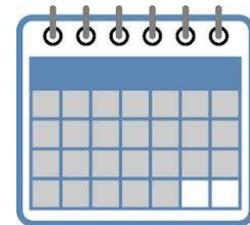
-A House committee advanced major legislation late last week that would effectively end the National Security Agency's bulk vacuuming of American phone records, a notable step forward for surveillance reform that comes as key spying authorities are a month away from expiring, National Journal reports. Read more [here](#).

The Hill's Julian Hatter weighs in on the reform effort, noting that it comes nearly two years after Edward Snowden's first leaks about the agency and just a month before a key legislative deadline. "Congress has until June 1 to reauthorize three expiring portions of the Patriot Act, including the provision that authorizes the NSA to collect bulk records about millions of people's phone calls," Hatter [writes](#). "The NSA program collects phone 'metadata' - such as the numbers involved in a phone call and when it occurred - but not actual content."

-Lawmakers in the Senate unveiled yet another proposal to require a national data breach notification standard. This one, introduced by Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont along with five other

Events

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Events at a Glance



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then questions and answers with members of the audience. Registration information is located [here](#).

Democratic co-sponsors, would allow states to keep their own laws if they provide more stringent reporting and privacy protections than offered by the federal government. But tech and business groups are likely to balk at the idea, says Eric Chabrow at GovInfoSecurity. "Although backed by a number of privacy and civil liberties group, business organization would likely oppose the bill because it would not standardize the reporting of data breaches," Chabrow [writes](#). "A major objection to the current regime is that 51 states, territories and the District of Columbia have their own laws with varying requirements that businesses contend make it burdensome to comply with when a breach occurs."

Cyber Security Policy News

Use of a stingray leads to a "not guilty" plea

-A woman [accused](#) of being a getaway driver in a series of robberies in St. Louis has changed her plea from guilty to not guilty after finding out that a stingray was used in her case, Ars Technica [reports](#). Wilqueda Lillard was originally set to testify against her three other co-defendants, whose charges were also dropped earlier this month. As a result of changing her plea, the local prosecutor dropped the charges against her on Monday. "Relatively little is known about how, exactly, stingrays, known more generically as cell-site simulators, are used by law enforcement agencies nationwide, although new documents have recently been released showing how they have been purchased and used in some limited instances," reports Cyrus Farivar. "And [cops have lied to courts](#) about their use. Not only can stingrays be used to determine location by spoofing a cell tower, they can also be used to intercept calls and text messages. Typically, police deploy them without first obtaining a search warrant."

Bernie Sanders vows to dismantle NSA's surveillance

-Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont Independent, is running for president, and among his populist proposals is a vow to completely dismantle the NSA's domestic surveillance programs, according to The National Journal. "Sanders has for years also been one of the Senate's fiercest critics of the National Security Agency's secretive surveillance operations," [writes](#) Dustin Volz. "The Vermont independent, who officially announced his White House bid on Thursday, is widely viewed by Beltway types as more of a debate-stage prop to bounce liberal ideas off Clinton on her march toward an inevitable Democratic primary victory. Polling has routinely placed Sanders in the single digits among Democratic voters. But while progressives are hopeful he can serve as an

Elizabeth Warren surrogate and challenge Clinton on Wall Street reform, Sanders' candidacy also offers an opportunity to force Clinton to talk more concretely about domestic surveillance-something he has not minced words about since the Edward Snowden disclosures began in 2013."

iPad app used by pilots delays flights

-A glitch iPad app used by American Airlines pilots caused delays on several dozen flights April 28, the BBC reports. The faulty app is used by the planes' pilots and co-pilots for viewing flight plans. According to [the BBC](#), American Airlines' cockpits went "paperless" in 2013 to save its staff having to lug heavy paperwork on board. "AA estimated the move would save it more than \$1.2 million in fuel every year."

Chinese government blocks web surfing to certain sites

-Chinese government censors at the helm of the "Great Firewall of China" appear to have inadvertently blocked Chinese Web surfers from visiting pages that call out to connect.facebook.net, a resource used by Facebook's "like" buttons.

KrebsOnSecurity [reports](#) that while the apparent screw-up was quickly fixed, the block was cached by many Chinese networks - effectively blocking millions of Chinese Web surfers from visiting a huge number of sites that are not normally censored.

Small business owners see cybersecurity as a concern

-A new [survey](#) found that the vast majority of U.S. small business owners believe cybersecurity is a concern and that lawmakers should do more to combat cyber attacks. The survey, released at the start of National Small Business Week, highlights small business concerns about data security, noting that nearly one-third of those surveyed have experienced a cyber attack, yet less than half have invested resources into cybersecurity protection in the last year. The survey comes less than a week after the president of the National Small Business Association [told House lawmakers](#) that Congressional legislative proposals on cybersecurity don't go far enough to protect and educate small businesses.

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.cspr.seas.gwu.edu>

CSPRI

[202 994 5613](tel:202-994-5613), cspr@gwu.edu
Tompkins Hall, Suite 106
725 23rd Street NW
Washington DC, DC 20052