

# GW CSPRI Newsletter

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From the **Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute of The George Washington University**, [www.cspri.seas.gwu.edu](http://www.cspri.seas.gwu.edu).

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.

*Faculty and student readers of this newsletter with new and important cyber security research to report (especially new papers or results by GW faculty and students) are encouraged to send notifications of this to [cspriaa@gwu.edu](mailto:cspriaa@gwu.edu). A short (up to three sentences) description of why you think the research is important is required.*

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**On January 29, David Medine, chair of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB), spoke about the NSA’s surveillance program at the George Washington University. He also answered questions from the audience.**

Watch the entire discussion [here](#).

## Events

-Feb. 4, 10:00 a.m., **World Wide Threats** - The House Intelligence Committee will hold a hearing. The Worldwide Threats Hearing is an open hearing the Committee holds each year that evaluates the current and projected threats facing the country. Witnesses will include James R. Clapper, director of National Intelligence; John O. Brennan, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Michael T. Flynn, Lieutenant General, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense; James B. Comey, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Matthew G. Olsen, director of the National Counterterrorism Center. Capitol Building, HVC-210. [More information](#).

-Feb. 4, 10:00 a.m., **Examining Recommendations to Reform FISA Authorities** - The House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing. Witnesses will include James M. Cole, United States Department of Justice; Peter P. Swire, Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technology; David Medine, Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board; Steven G. Bradbury, Dechert, LLP; Dean Garfield, Information Technology Industry Council; and David D. Cole Georgetown University Law Center. Rayburn House Office Bldg., Room 2141. [More information.](#)

-Feb. 4, 10:15 a.m., **Privacy In a Digital Age: Preventing Data Breaches and Combating Cybercrime** - The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing. Witnesses will include John J. Mulligan, executive vice president and chief financial officer, Target Corporation; Delara Derakhshani, policy counsel, Consumers Union; Edith Ramirez, chairwoman, Federal Trade Commission; William Noonan, deputy special agent in charge, Criminal Investigative Division, U.S. Secret Service; Mythili Raman, acting assistant attorney general, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice. Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Room 226. [More information.](#)

-Feb. 4, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., **The Future of Privacy Protection** - Georgetown University Law Center, 600 New Jersey Ave NW, McDonough 140. [More information.](#)

-Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m., **Protecting Consumer Information: Can Data Breaches Be Prevented?** - The House Energy & Commerce Committee will hold a hearing. The witnesses will include Edith Ramirez, chairwoman Federal Trade Commission; Lisa Madigan, attorney general, State of Illinois; William Noonan, deputy special agent in charge, Criminal Investigations Division, Cyber Operations, United States Secret Service; Lawrence Zelvin, director of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, Department of Homeland Security; Michael Kingston, senior vice president and chief information officer, The Neiman Marcus Group; John Mulligan, executive vice president and chief financial officer, Target Brands Incorporated; Bob Russo, general manager; PCI Security Standards Council; and Phillip J. Smith, senior vice president, Trustwave Holdings. Rayburn House Office Bldg., Room 2123. [More information.](#)

-Feb. 5, 1:30 p.m., **System and Conscience: NSA Bulk Surveillance and the Problem of Freedom** - The Global Internet Freedom and Human Rights Distinguished Speaker Series hosts Yochai Benkler, the Berkman Professor of Entrepreneurial Legal Studies at Harvard Law School, and faculty co-director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University. Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center, 11th Floor, 901 K Street, NW. [More information.](#)

-Feb. 6, 6:30 - 8:00, **OWASP NoVa Meetup** - A meeting of the Northern Virginia chapter of the Open Web Application Security Project. Meetings are free and open to anyone interested in learning more about application security. Systems Engineer Jerry Walton will discuss "Securing Wireless Channels in the Mobile Space." Living Social, 11600 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA, 20136. [More information.](#)

-Feb. 12, 10:00 a.m., **Hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Report of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board on Reforms to the Section 215 Telephone**

**Records Program and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court** - Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Room 226. This hearing will be Webcast. [More information](#).

-Feb. 12, Noon – 1:30 p.m., **Writing and Publishing in Cybersecurity** – In this panel discussion, scholars and experts from multiple disciplines, as well as government and industry, will address topics related to research, authorship, and publishing. Gelman Library, Room 702.

## Legislative Lowdown

-Recent credit card breaches at Target, Neiman Marcus, and Michaels Stores are resurrecting a push for a national data breach disclosure law. Last week, Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) was joined by three other senators in being the latest lawmakers to introduce a federal breach disclosure plan that would harmonize disparate laws already on the books in 48 states and the District of Columbia. According to [The Hill](#), under the Data Security and Breach Notification Act, "the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) would issue security standards for businesses that hold people's personal and financial data. If those companies are hacked, they would need to notify affected customers so they can take preventive steps on their own. Businesses would also be given incentives to adopt new technologies to make customers' data unreadable or unusable if stolen."

-On Feb. 5 at 10:00 a.m., the House Committee on Homeland Security will markup H.R. 3696, the [National Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2013](#). Cannon House Office Bldg., Room 311. [More information](#).

## Cyber Security Policy News

-The National Security Agency has named a senior official within the Department of Homeland Security as its very first civil liberties and privacy officer, NextGov [reports](#). "Rebecca Richards worked as the director of privacy compliance at DHS and has been with the department since 2004, according to her LinkedIn page. In her role she will 'serve as the primary advisor to the Director of NSA for ensuring that privacy is protected and civil liberties are maintained by all of NSA's missions, programs, policies and technologies,' according to the agency's official job listing posted in September of last year."

The appointment comes as the Obama administration says it will let Internet companies give customers more information on how often the government demands their information. The New York Times [writes](#) that the new rules — which have prompted Google, Microsoft, Yahoo and Facebook to drop their respective lawsuits before the nation's secret surveillance court — "would not allow companies to disclose what is being collected or how much," and that the rules "also contain a provision that bars start-ups from revealing information about government requests for two years."

A Colorado man facing terrorism charges became the first criminal defendant to challenge the constitutionality of the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance program, writes The

Washington Post. Ellen Nakashima [reports](#) that the case of Jamshid Muhtorov, a refugee from Uzbekistan, "is likely to be the first in which a court weighs the constitutionality of a law that has stoked controversy since it was passed in 2008 as a revision to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The Supreme Court ultimately could decide the issue."

-The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) plans to scrutinize the way financial firms defend against cyberattacks after a series of recent high-profile data breaches, Reuters [reports](#). "We will be looking to see what policies are in place to prevent, detect and respond to cyber attacks," said Jane Jarcho, the national associate director for the Securities and Exchange Commission's investment adviser exam program, addressing a group of compliance professionals at SEC headquarters in Washington, D.C. last week. "We will be looking at policies on IT training, vendor access and vendor due diligence, and what information you have on any vendors."

The SEC's renewed push comes as Congress is expected to host a bevy of executives from top retailers that have announced data breaches of late. C-level executives from Target and Neiman Marcus are expected to testify before lawmakers on Capitol Hill this week about the impact on consumers. On Friday, KrebsOnSecurity.com [reported](#) that yet another nationwide company -- hotel franchise firm White Lodging -- may have suffered a data breach that exposed credit cards of guests who stayed at the firm's 168 hotels, which include hotels managed by White Lodging but operating under the banners of Hilton, Marriott, Sheraton and Westin.

*The Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute (CSPRI) is a center for GW and the Washington area to promote technical research and policy analysis of problems that have a significant computer security and information assurance component. More information is available at our website, <http://www.cspri.seas.gwu.edu>.*