

# 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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## Events

-Sept. 23, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., **Border Searches, National Security, and the Reasonable Expectation of Digital Privacy** - In *United States v. Cotterman*, the Ninth Circuit held that government officials must have "reasonable suspicion" before conducting forensic searches of laptops at the U.S. border. The court's ruling is a dramatic departure from the general rule permitting suspicionless border searches in the interests of national security. Is the Ninth Circuit correct that computer searches should be held to heightened scrutiny because they "implicate substantial personal privacy interests?" Is it true that "[a] person's digital life ought not be hijacked simply by crossing a border?" Or does the Cotterman decision pose a threat to effective protection of the nation from harm? Speakers in this teleconference include Brian Hauss, Legal Fellow, ACLU Speech, Privacy and Technology Project, and Andrew J.P. Levy, Senior Counsel, Accenture. [More information](#).

-Sept. 24-26, **International Cryptographic Module Conference** - Experts from around the world will convene at ICMC 2013 to address the unique challenges faced by those who produce, use, and test cryptographic modules that conform with standards such as the FIPS 140-2 standard. ICMC will review technical topics underlying the implementation of a cryptographic module including physical security, key management, side-channel analysis, cryptographic algorithm implementation testing, standardization

(FIPS 140-2, ISO/IEC 19790), validation programs and more. Holiday Inn Gaithersburg, 2 Montgomery Village Ave, Gaithersburg, Md. 20879. [More information.](#)

-Sept. 25, **4th Annual Cybersecurity Conference** - This summit draws together a cross-section of federal, military and industry engaging in a serious dialogue about the cyber threats facing the nation and how the contracting community can partner with federal decision-makers. This year features talks by Gen. Keith Alexander, commander of the U.S. Cyber Command; and D Michael Daniel, cybersecurity coordinator, The White House; Debora Plunkett, Director, Information Assurance Directorate, NSA. JW Marriott Washington, DC, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. [More information.](#)

-Sept. 25, 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m., **Cyber Sticks and Carrots -- How the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, Incentives, and the SAFETY Act Affect You** - Join Former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Jane Holl Lute, the President and CEO of the Council on Cybersecurity, and Venable's own cybersecurity practitioners for an on-site and Webcast presentation on key insights and industry updates. Venable, 575 7th St., NW. [More information.](#)

-Sept. 25, 1:00 p.m., **RSA Webcast: The Preventive and Responsive Sides of Cyber Security** - The number of cyber attacks on financial services organizations went up by 122% last quarter, and industry experts expect it to increase further as volume of data and number of connected devices continues to explode. The changing threat landscape is only fueling this trend. Unfortunately, security budgets in financial services organizations are not increasing to address this. Security teams are managing more tools than ever and are burdened with too much of data and very little actionable information. This Webcast will showcase how organizations are leveraging their current tools, increasing their effectiveness and proving return on investment. [More information.](#)

-Sept. 26, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., **Denial of Service and Data Breach Attacks: How Industry Information Sharing Helps Defeat Cyber Threats** - In this Webinar, Denise Anderson of Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center (FS-ISAC) will describe how the organization facilitates the dissemination of critical information through a variety of channels, and why other industries might benefit from these approaches. Mike Smith, director of Akamai's Security Incident Response Team, will talk about how to defend a financial institution against large-scale DDoS and data breach attacks. [More information.](#)

-Sept. 26, 2:00 p.m., **Open Hearing: FISA Legislation** - The Senate Intelligence Committee will hold a hearing to examine Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) legislation. Hart Senate Office Bldg., Room 216. [More information.](#)

-Sept. 26, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., **CharmSec Meetup** - Part of the CitySec movement, this is a monthly informal meetup of information security professionals in Baltimore. Heavy Seas Alehouse, 1300 Bank Street, Baltimore, Md., 21231. [More information.](#)

-Oct 3-4, **The C3<sup>®</sup> Conference** is a professional development event for educators in Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region. The core mission of the C3<sup>®</sup> Conference is to inform the educational community about the ethical, legal, safety, and security implications of technology use and illustrate how educators and parents can apply these concepts to their own setting. University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. [More information](#).

## Legislative Lowdown

-A House lawmaker has introduced legislation that would require the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to place more of an emphasis on protecting privacy. The bill offered by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), "Ensuring Adversarial Process in the FISA Court Act," would allow non-government lawyers to argue for strong privacy protections in certain FISA court cases, *The Hill* [writes](#). Under the measure, the FISA court would be able to select the attorney from a pool appointed by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, an independent agency within the executive branch.

## Cyber Security Policy News

-Experts at RSA Security are urging users of the company's BSAFE toolkit and Data Protection Manager to cease using a core cryptography component in the products recently revealed by *The New York Times* to contain a backdoor engineered by the National Security Agency, *Ars Technica* [reports](#). "An advisory sent to select RSA customers on Thursday confirms that both products by default use something known as Dual EC\_DRBG when creating cryptographic keys," the story notes. "The specification, which was approved in 2006 by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and later by the International Organization for Standardization, contains a backdoor that was inserted by the NSA, *The Times* reported last week."

-New revelations from whistleblower Edward Snowden suggest that Britain's GCHQ intelligence service was the driving force behind a cyberattack against Belgacom, a partly state-owned Belgian telecoms company. The information comes in a leaked GCHQ presentation obtained by German news outlet [Der Spiegel](#) and indicates that the goal of project, conducted under the codename "Operation Socialist," was "to enable better exploitation of Belgacom" and to improve understanding of the provider's infrastructure.

-Stung by incessant revelations about its domestic surveillance policies, the US National Security Agency is seeking to hire a "Civil Liberties & Privacy Officer," reports [CNet](#). According to CNet, President Obama announced the job opening at a press conference last month as part of plan to bring greater public transparency to the agency's activities.

-In a move that could shake up the \$120 billion online advertising industry and efforts to win affect more privacy protections for consumers, Google is considering a major change in how online browsing activity is tracked, [reports](#) USA Today. According to the

publication, Google is developing an anonymous identifier for advertising to supplant third-party cookies used by advertisers to track Internet browsing activity for marketing purposes. "The AdID would be transmitted to advertisers and ad networks that have agreed to basic guidelines, giving consumers more privacy and control over how they browse the Web," USAToday writes, quoting a source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

-Some factions within the computer and information security industries have long advocated for the development of professional standards that would spell out the skills and knowledge base that professionals in cybersecurity jobs would need to have in order to gain employment in the field. But according to a new report by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, the field is moving just too quickly for that to become a practical reality. The NAS notes that now would be a particularly bad time to consider such a shift, given the staffing shortages that already exist in the field. According to [NextGov](#), the report, "Professionalizing the Nation's Cybersecurity Workforce? Criteria for Decision-Making," released last week, concluded that "while the field of cybersecurity requires specialized knowledge and intensive advanced training, it is still too young and diverse a discipline to introduce professionalization standards." (CSPRI's Professor Diana Burley of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development was the co-chair of the committee that produced the report, available [here](#).)

*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>.*