Security News Digest
Information Security Branch

OCIO Office of the Chief Information Officer

April 7, 2020

Try our April Quiz – Working Remotely

Cyber Hygiene for Corvid019 - https://cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/cyber-hygiene-covid-19

This week's stories:

- How Canadian organizations can combat ransomware attacks
- Canada's spy service moves quietly ahead with data crunching plans: documents
- Essential industries are getting CIRA's cybersecurity services for free
- How to address coronavirus misinformation spreading through messaging apps and email
- Forgot your keys? Scan your face, says Canadian firm amid privacy concerns
- Alberta health minister used confidential information to call protesting doctors
- SMBs are getting hit by an epidemic of cyber-attacks: 10 tips to defend your business
- Beyond Zoom: How Safe Are Slack and Other Collaboration Apps?
- Firefox Zero-Day Flaws Exploited in the Wild Get Patched
- Rush to adopt online learning under COVID-19 exposes schools to cyberattacks
- FBI warns again of BEC scammers exploiting cloud email services

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How Canadian organizations can combat ransomware attacks

https://www.canadiansecuritymag.com/how-canadian-organizations-can-combat-ransomware-attacks/

In recent months, hackers have targeted provincial governments as well as Canadian hospitals with high-profile ransomware attacks, often taking e-mail systems offline and making records more difficult to access.

These attacks aren't isolated – organizations around the world have increasingly been the victims of ransomware attacks over the past year. Large insurance companies, military contractors and healthcare providers have all been victimized.

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Canada's spy service moves quietly ahead with data crunching plans: documents

https://www.canadiansecuritymag.com/canadas-spy-service-moves-quietly-ahead-with-data-crunching-plans-documents/

OTTAWA – Canada's spy agency is moving quietly ahead with plans to collect and use databases containing personal information about Canadians, newly released documents show.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service says the initiative — made possible by sweeping security legislation passed last year — will enable the agency to crunch large volumes of information and detect previously unseen patterns.

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Essential industries are getting CIRA's cybersecurity services for free

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/essential-industries-are-getting-ciras-cybersecurity-services-for-free/429288

The Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) today announced six months of free access to CIRA DNS Firewall to all healthcare facilities, small businesses and non-profits to help them protect against a growing number of cyber-attacks in the wake of COVID-19.

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How to address coronavirus misinformation spreading through messaging apps and email

https://www.canadiansecuritymag.com/how-to-address-coronavirus-misinformation-spreading-through-messaging-apps-and-email/

During times of crisis, like the current COVID-19 pandemic, people need access to reliable information in order to keep themselves safe, manage risk and avoid becoming a burden on others or health-care systems. However, ensuring that people have access to the right information when they need it has become a major challenge due to widespread digital misinformation.

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Forgot your keys? Scan your face, says Canadian firm amid privacy concerns

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-canada-tech-homes-feature-trfn-idUSKBN21O1ZT

TORONTO (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Plans for Canadian residents to use facial scans to enter their buildings have sparked criticism from privacy campaigners calling for changes to the country's aging data protection laws.

Canadian real estate firm 1Valet says facial scanning helps keep tenants safe by preventing unauthorized access to buildings and by keeping track of those who do enter.

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Alberta health minister used confidential information to call protesting doctors

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/health-minister-shandro-confidential-information-1.5519962

When Dr. John Julyan-Gudgeon went to a hospital event to protest health-care cuts, he didn't expect it to lead to an after-hours phone call on his personal cellphone from the health minister.

But that's exactly what happened.

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SMBs are getting hit by an epidemic of cyber-attacks: 10 tips to defend your business

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/smbs-are-getting-hit-by-an-epidemic-of-cyber-attacks-10-tips-to-defend-your-business/429285

As the number of COVID-19 cases escalate, so do the number of cyber-attacks on remote workers, especially those in the small and medium business (SMB) sector.

"The bad guys know that large companies have all kinds of controls in place," said Michael Ball, a virtual CISO and Cyber Security Consultant, at an ITWC webinar. They're going to attack the little guys in the hope that there's a network connection back to a bigger one."

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Beyond Zoom: How Safe Are Slack and Other Collaboration Apps?

https://threatpost.com/beyond-zoom-safe-slack-collaboration-apps/154446/

COVID-19's effect on work footprints has created an unprecedented challenge for IT and security staff. Many departments are scrambling to enable collaboration apps for all — but without proper security they can be a big risk.

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Firefox Zero-Day Flaws Exploited in the Wild Get Patched

https://threatpost.com/firefox-zero-day-flaws-exploited-in-the-wild-get-patched/154466/

Mozilla Foundation rushes patches to fix bugs in its browser that could allow for remote code execution.

Mozilla patched two Firefox browser zero-day vulnerabilities actively being exploited in the wild. The flaws, both use-after-free bugs, have been part of "targeted attacks in the wild," according to a Mozilla Foundation security advisory posted Friday.

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Rush to adopt online learning under COVID-19 exposes schools to cyberattacks

https://www.scmagazine.com/home/security-news/news-archive/coronavirus/race-to-adopt-online-learning-under-covid-19-exposes-schools-to-cyberattacks/

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages, the cyber community has rightly focused on protecting the health care industry from malicious hackers but education is at risk, too, as recently homebound students attend school in record numbers via online edtech platforms, e-learning environments and video conferencing.

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FBI warns again of BEC scammers exploiting cloud email services

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/fbi-warns-again-of-bec-scammers-exploiting-cloud-email-services/

FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has issued today a public service announcement warning of cybercriminals abusing popular cloud-based email services as part of Business Email Compromise (BEC) attacks.

This is the second time within a month that the FBI has warned of malicious actors abusing cloud email to conduct BEC scams, with a private industry notification (PIN) on the same subject having been issued on March 3.

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