August 30, 2022

Challenge yourself with our Summer Social Media Security quiz!

This past week's stories:

- **Canadian forum of CIOs mulls establishing national cybersecurity standard**
- **Barely one in 10 Canadians worried about cyber attacks and that concerns authorities**
- **Ransomware attack surges tied to crypto spikes**
- **A third of cybersecurity professionals are kept awake by stress**
- **Ransomware: Cyber criminals are coming for the Global South**
- **Hackers breach LastPass developer system to steal code**
- **Twilio discloses more victims as phishing attack effects cascade**
- **77% of security leaders fear we're in perpetual cyberwar from now on**
- **The top three cybersecurity threats in 2022: Watchguard**
- **Microsoft's new cybersecurity report reveals evolved ransomware system**
- **Montenegro says Russian cyberattacks threaten key state functions**

Canadian forum of CIOs mulls establishing national cybersecurity standard

Canada's national forum for chief information officers (CIO) and executive tech leaders have announced plans to establish a national occupational standard for cybersecurity workers.

The CIO Strategy Council announced last week that it is looking for input from industry stakeholders on its draft for the standard, which looks to establish the minimum requirements for the qualification of cybersecurity professionals, as well as their responsibilities.

https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/ca/news/cyber/canadian-forum-of-cios-mulls-establishing-national-cybersecurity-standard-418453.aspx

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

Barely one in 10 Canadians worried about cyber attacks and that concerns authorities

Canada's digital spy agency says it's concerned after internal polling shows barely one in 10 Canadians say they are concerned about being the victim of a cyber attack at a time when cyber threats are at an all-time high.

According to an Ekos poll conducted for the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) early this year, a large majority of Canadians "do not feel it is likely" that they or their personal data could be affected by a cyber threat.

https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/only-1-in-10-canadians-worried-about-cyber-threats

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

Ransomware attack surges tied to crypto spikes

The volume of ransomware threats surged in June to more than 1.2 million incidents, reaching levels last observed in January, according to Barracuda Networks research released Tuesday.

The spikes in ransomware activity preceded periods of slowdown, dipping to a 2022 low of about 350,000 attempts in March. But these downward trends are temporary and often correlate to cryptocurrency values, Barracuda Networks CTO Fleming Shi said. "When there is a spike on crypto you get more ransom threats and more attacks."

https://www.cybersecuritydive.com/news/ransomware-surges-crypto/630344/

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

A third of cybersecurity professionals are kept awake by stress

A new survey of over 300 UK security professionals shows 32 percent of respondents say they are kept awake by job stress, 25 percent by lack of opportunity, but only 22 percent by their organization suffering a cyberattack.

The study from The Chartered Institute of Information Security (CIISec) says organizations have been slow to adopt industry standards. Almost half (49 percent) don't follow the UK Government's Cyber Essentials practices, which provide basic best practice; and just 20 percent have formally adopted the NCSC's 'Ten steps to cyber security' guidance.

https://betanews.com/2022/08/25/a-third-of-cybersecurity-professionals-are-kept-awake-by-stress/

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

Ransomware: Cyber criminals are coming for the Global South

Within just a few weeks, a group of cyber criminals managed to throw Costa Rica into disarray.

In April, hackers took over the computer system of the country's finance ministry, demanding millions in ransom to return access. But authorities refused to pay. In the weeks that followed, the criminals retaliated by crippling the systems of nearly 30 other government agencies.

People across the Central American country felt the consequences: Tax systems froze. Workers were paid late. Goods for export, including perishable items like fruit, were stuck in customs.

https://www.dw.com/en/ransomware-cyber-criminals-are-coming-for-the-global-south/a-62917234

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

Hackers breach LastPass developer system to steal code

Password management service LastPass confirmed a security incident that resulted in the theft of certain source code and technical information.

The security breach is said to have occurred two weeks ago, targeting its development environment. No customer data or encrypted passwords were accessed, although the company provided no further details regarding the hack and what source code was stolen.

https://thehackernews.com/2022/08/hackers-breach-lastpass-developer.html

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

Twilio discloses more victims as phishing attack effects cascade

Twilio keeps discovering more victims as it continues to investigate the downstream impacts of a sophisticated phishing attack earlier this month.

The company, in a Wednesday update, said it identified 163 customers whose data was compromised. Twilio previously said the attack impacted 125 customers.

https://www.cybersecuritydive.com/news/twilio-phishing-victims/630719/

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

77% of security leaders fear we're in perpetual cyberwar from now on

A survey of cybersecurity decision makers found 77 percent think the world is now in a perpetual state of cyberwarfare.

In addition, 82 percent believe geopolitics and cybersecurity are "intrinsically linked," and two-thirds of polled organizations reported changing their security posture in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

https://www.theregister.com/2022/08/27/in-brief-security/

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

The top three cybersecurity threats in 2022: Watchguard

On average it takes 207 days to identify a breach, according to Marc Laliberte, director of security operations for WatchGuard Technologies, a Seattle-based network security firm.

Laliberte spoke at CRN parent company's The Channel Company's XChange 2022 event in Denver this week to speak about the top cyber threats in the security landscape in 2022.

https://www.crn.com/news/security/the-top-3-cybersecurity-threats-in-2022-watchguard

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

Microsoft's new cybersecurity report reveals evolved ransomware system

At an online security briefing on Wednesday, Jeremy Dallman, Senior Director at the Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center (MSTIC, pronounced "mystic") elaborated on the cybersecurity threats that the company reports on in the second edition of its Cyber Signals threat evaluation.

MSTIC is not a product, though its findings help to inform Microsoft's responses to threats in its products.

https://technewstt.com/bd1369-microsoft-cyber-signals-2-ransomware/

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

Montenegro says Russian cyberattacks threaten key state functions

Members of the government in Montenegro are stating that the country is being hit with sophisticated and persistent cyberattacks that threaten the country's essential infrastructure.

Targets include electricity and water supply systems, transportation services, online portals that citizens use to access various state services, and more.

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/montenegro-says-russian-cyberattacks-threaten-key-state-functions/

Click above link to read more.

Back to top

For previous issues of Security News Digest, visit the current month archive page at:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/services-for-government/information-management-technology/information-security/security-news-digest

To learn more about information security issues and best practices, visit us at:

https://www.gov.bc.ca/informationsecurity

OCIOSecurity@gov.bc.ca