
## November 23, 2021

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This week's stories:



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### York University School of Continuing Studies launches Canada's first university-level Post-Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security Operations

Today, York University's School of Continuing Studies announced the launch of a new Post-Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security Operations. This full-time program is designed for recent university graduates with no experience in information technology to pursue an in-demand, entry-level cyber security position.

According to Jeff Clark, a cyber security operations professional at a Canadian financial institution and academic coordinator for the new certificate, "businesses today are rapidly adopting digital transformation, exposing more and more of their sensitive data assets to the world in a bid to compete globally. Coupled with the prominence of Work-from-Home (fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic), these

businesses need immediate technical expertise to detect, respond and recover from incidents of cyber attack or employee events that threaten their most critical asset—their data."

https://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/york-university-school-continuing-studies-130000556.html

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### Inside Saint John's response to a devastating cyber attack

It was Nov. 26, 2020, and the municipal computer network in Saint John, N.B. had been dark for almost two weeks — taking down the city's website, costing the city thousands of hours in lost work and affecting its emergency dispatch system.

It was the work of cybercriminals who unleashed a ransomware attack that forced the city to disconnect itself from the rest of the online world. Saint John hired a Toronto-based company to navigate negotiations with them.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/saint-john-cyberattack-records-1.6252873

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### Ransomware rising

A link copied from the Resort Municipality of Whistler's (RMOW) website—posted by cyber criminals in the wake of a late April ransomware attack—pasted into a specialized browser called Tor takes me to a no-frills blog.

The page shows various text-based posts with accompanying dates, and in some cases links to click on, each containing files leaked from different attacks by the criminals in question.

In some cases, the attackers include a link to a chat box that can be used to communicate with them directly.

https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/cover-stories/ransomware-rising-4768965

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### UK and US join forces to strike back in cyber-space

The US and UK are joining forces to "impose consequences" on their shared adversaries who conduct malicious cyber-activities.

The combined action would address "evolving threats with a full range of capabilities", they said.

The shared adversaries were not named but the announcement follows increasing concern over Russia-based ransomware.

https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-59335332

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### Businesses worried about cyber attacks during the holidays, report finds

After a year of headline-grabbing ransomware attacks, businesses say they're worried about the possibility they'll face cyber intrusions this holiday season, a time when many of their cybersecurity operations rely on skeleton staffing.

Boston-based cybersecurity firm Cybereason commissioned a survey of 1,206 cybersecurity professionals at organizations that experienced a ransomware attack during a holiday or weekend within the last year. A whopping 89% of the respondents from the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Singapore, Spain, South Africa, and UAE indicated that they were concerned about a repeat cyber intrusion ahead of the holiday season. However, 36% said they had no "specific contingency plan in place to mount a response."

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cyber-security-cybersecurity-ransomware-hacking-businesses-worry-holidays/

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### Traveling for the holidays? Here's how to protect yourself from a cyber attack

Before heading out of town for the holidays you secure your house from intruders, but have you secured your personal data? Whether you are using a Mac or a Windows system, the risk of cybercrime significantly increases on the road.

Digital threats are the highest they have ever been. According to the US Federal Trade Commission, 1.4 million reports of identity theft were received in 2020 which doubled from 2019. Hackers are criminals of opportunity and travelers have a target on their back. We can protect ourselves with basic elements of cybersecurity.

https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/national/ways-to-protect-yourself-from-a-cyber-attack/509-698a119b-ae73-4609-9770-1010a21e09ce

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### Facebook and Instagram encryption plans delayed by Meta until 2023

Plans to roll out end-to-end encryption on Facebook and Instagram have been delayed amid a row over child safety.

Meta - as Facebook's parent company is now called - said messaging encryption on the apps would now come in 2023.

The process means only the sender and receiver can read messages, but law enforcement or Meta cannot.

https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-59373959

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### KL University student develops Cyber Security App with e-complaint filing feature

KL Deemed-to-be University, one of the leading universities in the country for graduation and higher education, has today announced that its student has created Cyber Security app that offers features like e-complaint filing, cyber internships, Cyber Consultation etc. The Cyber Alert app is also the very first cyber security app to be available in English, and Telugu. This unique app is simple, convenient and absolutely crucial to ensure one's digital security today. India, and world at large, has witnessed a surge in the cases of cyber-attacks and internet-borne threats since the onset of the pandemic. As 2021 created a largely digital workforce and learners, the scope for these attacks also increased manifold.

https://www.apnnews.com/kl-university-student-develops-cyber-security-app-with-e-complaint-filing-feature/

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### Creating a culture of cyber security

In 2020, a hack believed to have been perpetrated by the Russian intelligence service compromised more than 100 clients of the SolarWinds network management company. Affected organizations included tech giants Microsoft, Cisco, and Intel, as well as the Pentagon and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—the very agency tasked by the Department of Homeland Security with protecting federal computer networks from cyberattacks.

https://hub.jhu.edu/2021/11/18/gregory-falco-confronting-cyber-risk/

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### Premier Property Lawyers: Police investigate firm's IT incident

A cyber-security incident at a conveyancing firm is being investigated by police after systems went down and house sales were delayed.

Premier Property Lawyers (PPL) based in Enderby, Leicestershire, was unable to access IT systems following the incident on 7 November.

It left thousands of buyers in limbo with transactions not being processed.

https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-59334339

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### Netflix phishing scams are becoming more popular

Cybersecurity giant Kaspersky reports on the increasingly popular practice of using streaming services such as Netflix, Disney Plus, and Amazon Prime as phishing bait. The scams use fake sign-up and landing pages that can be pretty convincing at first glance but usually have tell-tale signs of something not being quite right; take a look at the one below as an example.

One of the most common emails is the fake Netflix 'Update your payment' warning that states a user's account is on hold until their payment details have been confirmed. Again, some might believe it looks convincing, but the real Netflix is unlikely to start an email with "Dear costumer." Clicking on the red button directs to a fake personal details page, one that has no spelling errors, but typing in your credit card numbers is a sure way of receiving a nasty surprise.

https://www.techspot.com/news/92302-netflix-phishing-scams-becoming-more-popular.html

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### Upcoming holidays prompt ransomware warning from authorities

US authorities have warned operators of critical national infrastructure (CNI) and IT services suppliers to be alert to attempted ransomware attacks over the coming days, as the country winds down ahead of the annual Thanksgiving holiday.

In a new alert, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and its partners at the FBI said recent history suggested that during the holiday period, more persistent malicious actors may be minded to strike at a time when offices tend to be closed and IT security teams reduced to a skeleton staff.

https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252509865/Upcoming-holidays-prompt-ransomware-warning-from-authorities

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### GoDaddy hack causes data breach affecting 1.2 million customers

In a data breach notification published today, GoDaddy said that the data of up to 1.2 million of its customers was exposed after hackers gained access to the company's Managed WordPress hosting environment.

The incident was discovered by GoDaddy last Wednesday, on November 17, but the attackers had access to its network and the data contained on the breached systems since at least September 6, 2021.

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/godaddy-hack-causes-data-breach-affecting-12-million-customers/

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### Panasonic develops cyber security system for internet-connected cars

Panasonic Corp. is aiming to introduce a security system it has developed for automakers to prevent cyberattacks amid the launch of more vehicles that offer various services via the internet.

The new system will see software installed in internet-connected cars to detect abnormalities and dedicated teams at Panasonic and the automakers will monitor the cars around the clock, the Japanese electronics conglomerate said.

https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/11/41bec2615cbb-panasonic-develops-cyber-security-system-for-internet-connected-cars.html

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