Security Digest
Information Security Branch

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January is Resolutions Month

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Former national security adviser questions feds' plan to prevent election meddling

https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/former-national-security-adviser-questions-feds-plan-to-prevent-election-meddling-1.4241069

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's former national security adviser is questioning whether federal departments are prepared for the risk of election meddling in 2019 and whether the federal Liberals' legislation meant to tackle foreign interference goes far enough.

"I don't think that the reports that were issued by the government—by [the Communications Security Establishment (CSE)]—is comprehensive enough. I'm not sure the legislation that we have in place deals with all of this," Richard Fadden said on CTV's Question Period.

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BlackBerry senses big new opportunity in security needs of connected devices

https://vancouversun.com/technology/blackberry-senses-big-new-opportunity-in-security-needs-of-connected-devices/wcm/3f26d385-db78-43de-898b-a47cc910dc42

BlackBerry Ltd.'s retreat from making smartphones doesn't mean it is giving up on the consumer device market, where it's aiming to get its security software into such things as fitness trackers and smart speakers.

The Waterloo, Ont., company is expected to kick off the year at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas on Monday with a sales pitch to manufacturers who the company hopes will license its software to secure their Internet of Things devices.

The market for such devices is expected to explode to more than 20 billion units in 2020 from about eight billion in 2017, according to research firm Gartner Inc., growth that is coinciding with increasing concerns about privacy.

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Bank of Montreal to create cybersecurity fusion center to fight fraud, breaches

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/bank-of-montreal-to-create-cybersecurity-fusion-centre-to-fight-fraud-breaches/413809

Eight months after suffering a data breach the Bank of Montreal says it is integrating its cybersecurity, fraud, and physical security capabilities into a new financial crimes unit.

The unit will be headed by Larry Zelvin, former managing director and global head of cyber security at U.S.-based financial giant Citigroup Inc. Before that he was director of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and senior director for response at the U.S. National Security Council.

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'Stalinist' Vietnamese cybersecurity law takes effect, worrying rights groups and online campaigners

https://edition.cnn.com/2019/01/02/asia/vietnam-cybersecurity-bill-intl/

Vietnam has enacted a catch-all cybersecurity law that could easily be used to ensnare citizen journalists and bloggers, free speech advocates and rights groups warn.

The law, which criminalizes criticism of the government and obliges internet companies to store data locally and hand over user data to the government without the need for a warrant, came into effect on January 1, according to state media.

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Proactive cyber security for beginners

http://www.dpaonthenet.net/article/163723/Proactive-cyber-security-for-beginners.aspx

No modern business is completely safe from cyber threats, even if this system does not have a high level of network connectivity. So, what can industrial companies do to protect themselves?

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Hackers are spreading Islamic State propaganda by hijacking dormant Twitter accounts

https://techcrunch.com/2019/01/02/hackers-islamic-state-propaganda-twitter/

Hackers are using a decade-old flaw to target and hijack dormant **Twitter** accounts to spread terrorist propaganda, TechCrunch has learned.

Many of the affected Twitter accounts appeared to be hijacked in recent days or weeks — some longer — after years of inactivity. A sudden shift in tone or the language used in tweets often gives away the hijack — usually a single tweet in Arabic, sometimes praising Allah or retweeting propaganda from another account.

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Beware of American Express Emails With Attached Phishing Form

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/beware-of-american-express-emails-with-attached-phishing-form/

A phishing campaign is underway that pretends to be from American Express and states that there is a security issue with your credit card. It then prompts you to open an attached HTML phishing form that will send the inputted information back to the scammers.

BleepingComputer first heard about this phishing scam from myonlinesecurity.co.uk, but when researching this further we have seen numerous variants being sent since October 2018. All of these variants utilize the same theme of there being a security review of your credit card that found issues that require you to send your information through an attached form and create a new online account.

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Beware of BMW Lottery Email Scam Stating You Won a BMW M240i

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/beware-of-bmw-lottery-email-scam-stating-you-won-a-bmw-m240i/

Emails are going around that may make you think you won a free 2018 BMW 2 Series M240i for the holidays, but the reality is that you just received a scam email that is trying to gather your personal information.

A scam email campaign is underway that states you won a new car through a BMW Lottery. These scam emails will have subject lines similar to "Claim Your Car and Check With your Winning Code" as show shown below.

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Data Breach Leaks 1,000 North Korean Defectors' Details

https://www.databreachtoday.com/data-breach-leaks-1000-north-korean-defectors-details-a-11905

South Korean officials say that personal information for 1,000 North Korean defectors has been stolen via a malware attack.

The Ministry of Unification, an executive department of the South Korean government aimed at promoting Korean reunification, says that the information was being stored by a privately run Hana Center in the province of Gyeongbuk, aka North Gyeongsang.

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Top 10 IoT vulnerabilities of 2018

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/top-10-iot-vulnerabilities-of-2018/413433

Attention developers of Internet of Things devices: The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) has updated its 2018 Top 10 IoT vulnerabilities list.

If you’re a creator or manufacturer of IoT devices, these are the potential traps that have to be fixed before a product is released. The list comes as a colourful chart that can be posted.

And if you’re a buyer of IoT products these are the vulnerabilities you should be looking for before putting down cash.

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Your Face is Going Places You May Not Like

https://hackaday.com/2019/01/02/your-face-is-going-places-you-may-not-like/

Many Chinese cities, among them Ningbo, are investing heavily in AI and facial recognition technology. Uses range from border control — at Shanghai's international airport and the border crossing with Macau — to the trivial: shaming jaywalkers.

In Ningbo, cameras oversee the intersections, and use facial-recognition to shame offenders by putting their faces up on large displays for all to see, and presumably mutter "tsk-tsk". So it shocked Dong Mingzhu, the chairwoman of China's largest air conditioner firm, to see her own face on the wall of shame when she'd done nothing wrong. The AIs had picked up her face off of an ad on a passing bus.

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Data security strategies for mobile workers

https://www.canadiansecuritymag.com/news/industry-news/data-security-strategies-for-mobile-workers

Do security and convenience have to be at odds?

Here's a common workplace situation: an employee wants to work from home because she is having her internet installed at her new apartment. The night before, knowing she won't have internet access at home, she downloads the files to her personal laptop. Though this is against company policy, she doesn't think she has any other option — she has to access the files somehow. And without access to her work drive from home, it means a big chunk of productive hours lost. So, knowingly or not, she breaks company policy.

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