February 18th, 2020

Try our February Quiz – Love Information Security

This week's stories:

- **Telus plans for Huawei gear in access part of its 5G network** 🇨🇦

- **Privacy expert calls Toronto police's use of Clearview AI 'appalling'** 🇨🇦

- **Is AI cybersecurity's salvation or its greatest threat?**

- **Oh crumbs – Security flaw in WordPress GDPR cookie plugin left 700,000 sites open to abuse**

- **FBI: Cybercrime tore a $3.5b hole in victims' pockets last year**

- **The US is charging Huawei with racketeering**

- **WhatsApp has hit 2 billion users, and it's pushing back hard against the US government for demanding a way to break encryption**

- **Apple joins FIDO Alliance to help end passwords**

- **Canadian consumers stung by cellphone porting scam: 'It's the creepiest thing'**

- **'Lack of privacy': Nancy Pelosi warns NATO allies against using Huawei**

- **Ring Forces 2FA On All Users to Secure Cameras from Hackers**

- **Phishing on Instagram Baits Russians With Free Money Promise**

Telus plans for Huawei gear in access part of its 5G network 🇨🇦

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/telus-plans-for-huawei-gear-in-access-part-of-its-5g-network/427327

Telus isn't waiting for Ottawa to decide whether the country's wireless carriers can use equipment from China's Huawei in their new 5G networks.

Doug French, the company's chief financial officer told the National Post today that it plans to include Huawei in the access part of the network, not the core, when the new 5G network goes live.

That will be "shortly," he said. "Our initial module will be with Huawei."

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Privacy expert calls Toronto police's use of Clearview AI 'appalling' 🇨🇦

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/privacy-expert-calls-toronto-polices-use-of-clearview-ai-appalling/427346

While he deserves some praise for halting the use of a controversial image search tool, Ann Cavoukin, the head of Global Privacy & Security by Design, and the former Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, says Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders has got a serious problem on his hands.

"He's got to get his house in order," she told IT World Canada. "How can other officers and various departments use something like this without his authorization?"

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Is AI cybersecurity's salvation or its greatest threat?

https://venturebeat.com/2020/02/11/is-ai-cybersecuritys-salvation-or-its-greatest-threat/

If you're uncertain whether AI is the best or worst thing to ever happen to cybersecurity, you're in the same boat as experts watching the dawn of this new era with a mix of excitement and terror.

AI's potential to automate security on a broader scale offers a welcome advantage in the short term. Yet unleashing a technology designed to eventually take humans out of the equation as much as possible naturally gives the industry some pause. There is an undercurrent of fear about the consequences if things run amok or attackers learn to make better use of the technology.

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Oh crumbs – Security flaw in WordPress GDPR cookie plugin left 700,000 sites open to abuse

https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/oh-crumbs-security-flaw-in-wordpress-gdpr-cookie-plugin-left-700-000-sites-open-to-abuse

A hugely popular WordPress plugin designed to help websites comply with EU cookie laws has been patched for a security flaw that could allow attackers to change site content and inject malicious JavaScript code.

The vulnerability found in GDPR Cookie Consent, whose 700,000-plus active installations makes it one of WordPress' most popular plugins, was caused by inadequate access controls and affects versions 1.8.2 and below.

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FBI: Cybercrime tore a $3.5b hole in victims' pockets last year

https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2020/02/13/fbi-cybercrime-tore-a-3-5b-hole-in-victims-pockets-last-year/

Why do online swindlers rob people over the age of 60?
Because that's where the money is.

According to the FBI's 2019 Internet Crime Report, released on Tuesday by the bureau's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), the total amount of money clawed out of victims through a smorgasbord of cybercrime types just keeps climbing, with 2019 bringing both the highest number of complaints and the highest dollar losses reported since the center was established in May 2000.

Those of us with gray hair tend to have the most money, and thus we have the dubious honor of being the most targeted and of having the biggest holes torn in our pockets. There were 68,013 people over the age of 60 who reported being victimized last year, and their total reported loss was $835,164,766.

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The US is charging Huawei with racketeering

https://techcrunch.com/2020/02/13/the-u-s-is-charging-huawei-with-racketeering/

Ratcheting up its pressure campaign against Huawei and its affiliates, the Department of Justice and the FBI announced today that it has brought 16 charges against Huawei in a sprawling case with major geopolitical implications (you can read the full 56-page indictment here).

Huawei is being charged with conspiracy to violate the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) statute. The DoJ alleges that Huawei and a number of its affiliates used confidential agreements with American companies over the past two decades to access the trade secrets of those companies, only to then misappropriate that intellectual property and use it to fund Huawei's business.

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WhatsApp has hit 2 billion users, and it's pushing back hard against the US government for demanding a way to break encryption

https://www.businessinsider.com/whatsapp-hits-2-billion-pushes-back-on-encryption-2020-2

WhatsApp is bracing itself for a clash with the US government over encryption.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal published Wednesday, the head of WhatsApp, Will Cathcart, said the messaging app had hit 2 billion users, up from 1.5 billion two years ago. It still falls behind the core Facebook app, which has 2.5 billion users.

Cathcart used the interview as a chance to draw a line in the sand over end-to-end encryption, the system that allows WhatsApp users' messages to stay private and inaccessible even by WhatsApp.

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Apple joins FIDO Alliance to help end passwords

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/apple-joins-fido-alliance-to-help-end-passwords/427261

Seven years ago a handful of companies including Lenovo and PayPal formed an association to develop open authentication standards to accelerate the use of biometric factors so users don't have to remember passwords.

This week Apple became the latest big-name vendor — and perhaps the last of the biggest vendors — to join the FIDO (Fast IDentity Online") Alliance.

Other giant manufacturers and service providers including Amazon, Visa, Google, IBM, Microsoft, Intel, Samsung and a number of banks are already members, enabling them to craft solutions for people to log into devices, web pages and applications with fingerprints, facial recognition, voice and security keys.

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Canadian consumers stung by cellphone porting scam: 'It's the creepiest thing'

https://globalnews.ca/news/6544138/cellphone-porting-scam/

Carolyn Morgan usually doesn't check her text messages late in the evening, but one evening in January, she did.

A new message from her phone provider, Rogers, came as a surprise.

"I read it twice," Morgan told Global News.

Then, she said, something clicked. Something wasn't right.

The message read: "Rogers has received a request to transfer your phone number to another Service Provider. If you did not authorize, contact Rogers urgently…" and went on to provide a toll-free telephone number.

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'Lack of privacy': Nancy Pelosi warns NATO allies against using Huawei

https://globalnews.ca/news/6560442/nancy-pelosi-huawei-nato/

No NATO ally should succumb to the temptation of letting Chinese tech giant Huawei into their next-generation cellular networks, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday at Allied headquarters, turning U.S. opposition to Huawei into a bipartisan effort.

Pelosi said the invasion of privacy that would result from having Huawei integrated into Europe's 5G communication networks would be "like having the state police, the Chinese state police, right in your pocket."

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Ring Forces 2FA On All Users to Secure Cameras from Hackers

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/ring-forces-2fa-on-all-users-to-secure-cameras-from-hackers/

Ring announced today the roll-out of mandatory two-factor authentication (2FA) to all user accounts, as well as the inclusion of additional security and privacy controls over third-party service providers, and the choice to opt-out of personalized advertising.

"While we already offered two-factor authentication to customers, starting today we're making a second layer of verification mandatory for all users when they log into their Ring accounts," Ring President Leila Rouhi said.

"This added authentication helps prevent unauthorized users from gaining access to your Ring account, even if they have your username and password."

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Phishing on Instagram Baits Russians With Free Money Promise

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/phishing-on-instagram-baits-russians-with-free-money-promise/

A large-scale phishing campaign is running on Instagram to bait Russians with a fake presidential decree that promises a lump-sum payment for a citizen to start their own business.

The crooks have invested notable effort to promote the announcement and make it look credible. Since the start of the campaign, more than 200,000 people viewed the messages.

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