March 12th, 2019

Visit our new Digital Security News website providing information on digital security topics such as recent breaches, threats, vulnerabilities, vendor released updates, and other security alerts and stories found here: http://digitalsecurity.gov.bc.ca.

This week’s stories:

- U.S. introduces resolution backing Canada for ‘upholding the rule of law’ on Huawei
  WASHINGTON — The Republican and Democratic leaders of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee introduced legislation on Thursday backing Canada’s handling of Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, as the United States seeks her extradition.
  China on Monday accused detained Canadian citizen Michael Kovrig of stealing state secrets passed on to him from another detained Canadian, businessman Michael Spavor, in a move likely to increase tension between Ottawa and Beijing.
  Click link above to read more

- Facebook Removes, Then Restores, Elizabeth Warren's Ads Criticizing It
  Facebook (FB - Get Report) added some fuel to the fire of criticism of Big Tech by taking down ads critical of it from Elizabeth Warren on Monday, before reconsidering and putting them back up. The ads from
Democratic presidential candidate Warren, who recently outlined a plan to break up the country’s largest tech companies, singled out Facebook, Amazon and Google for their "vast power over our economy and our democracy." The ads claimed that as these companies have grown, "they've bulldozed competition, used our private information for profit, and tilted the playing field in their favor."

In place of the ads, Facebook had text saying that "this ad was taken down because it goes against Facebook's advertising policies." After Politico reported on the ad takedown, Facebook soon restored them, saying it had only removed down because the ads used Facebook's corporate logo.

Click link above to read more

House aide: NSA has shut down phone call record surveillance

The most controversial National Security Agency surveillance program, originally exposed by documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, has apparently ended quietly, according to the National Security Advisor to Republican House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy.

In a discussion recorded for the Lawfare Podcast released on March 2, Luke Murry said that the NSA was no longer collecting call detail records—the metadata associated with phone calls and text messages—and that the Trump administration had not used the program for over six months.

Click link above to read more

No guns or lockpicks needed to nick modern cars if they're fitted with hackable 'smart' alarms
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2019/03/08/ptp_smart_car_alarm_research_pandora_viper_smart_start/

Researchers have discovered that "smart" alarms can allow thieves to remotely kill your engine at speed, unlock car doors and even tamper with cruise control speed.

British infosec biz Pen Test Partners found that the Viper Smart Start alarm and products from vendor Pandora were riddled with flaws, allowing an attacker to steal a car fitted with one of the affected devices.

Click link above to read more

Microsoft says Iran-linked hackers targeted businesses
https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/microsoft-says-iran-linked-hackers-targeted-businesses-1.4325440

REDMOND, Wash. -- Microsoft has detected cyberattacks linked to Iranian hackers that targeted thousands of people at more than 200 companies over the past two years.

That's according to a Wall Street Journal report Wednesday that the hacking campaign stole corporate secrets and wiped data from computers.

Microsoft told the Journal the cyberattacks affected oil-and-gas companies and makers of heavy machinery in several countries, including Saudi Arabia, Germany, the United Kingdom, India and the U.S., and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages.

Click link above to read more
Source: Leaked Documents Show the U.S. Government Tracking Journalists and Immigration Advocates Through a Secret Database


Documents obtained by NBC 7 Investigates show the U.S. government created a secret database of activists, journalists, and social media influencers tied to the migrant caravan and in some cases, placed alerts on their passports.

At the end of 2018, roughly 5,000 immigrants from Central America made their way north through Mexico to the United States southern border. The story made international headlines.

As the migrant caravan reached the San Ysidro Port of Entry in south San Diego County, so did journalists, attorneys, and advocates who were there to work and witness the events unfolding.

Click link above to read more

Looking for travel deals? Stay off the dark web


Think the real world is a dangerous place for travelers? Try visiting the virtual one, a place filled with shady travel offers and criminals who want to steal your personal information.

It’s the time of year when people start planning their summer vacations, and with everyone watching the bottom line, the temptation to save a few dollars by booking online is strong. That might include searching the underside of the internet for a bargain.

Click link above to read more

Click Unsubscribe to stop receiving the Digest.

The Security News Digest (SND) is a collection of articles published by others that have been compiled by the Information Security Branch (ISB) from various sources. The intention of the SND is simply to make its recipients aware of recent articles pertaining to information security in order to increase their knowledge of information security issues. The views and opinions displayed in these articles are strictly those of the articles' writers and editors and are not intended to reflect the views or opinions of the ISB. Readers are expected to conduct their own assessment on the validity and objectivity of each article and to apply their own judgment when using or referring to this information. The ISB is not responsible for the manner in which the information presented is used or interpreted by its recipients.

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:
Information Security Awareness Team - Information Security Branch
Office of the Chief Information Officer, Ministry of Citizens’ Services
4000 Seymour Place, Victoria, BC V8X 4S8
https://www.gov.bc.ca/informationsecurity
OCIOSecurity@gov.bc.ca

The information presented or referred to in SND is owned by third parties and protected by copyright law, as well as any terms of use associated with the sites on which the information is provided. The recipient is responsible for making itself aware of and abiding by all applicable laws, policies and agreements associated with this information.

We attempt to provide accurate Internet links to the information sources referenced. We are not responsible for broken or inaccurate Internet links to sites owned or operated by third parties, nor for the content, accuracy, performance or availability of any such third-party sites or any information contained on them.