Security Digest
Information Security Branch

March 12th, 2019

March is Fraud Awareness Month

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**
- **Facebook Removes, Then Restores, Elizabeth Warren's Ads Criticizing It**
- **House aide: NSA has shut down phone call record surveillance**
- **No guns or lockpicks needed to nick modern cars if they're fitted with hackable 'smart' alarms**
- **Microsoft says Iran-linked hackers targeted businesses**
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U.S. introduces resolution backing Canada for 'upholding the rule of law' on Huawei

https://globalnews.ca/news/5031142/us-senate-huawei-canada/

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.

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Facebook Removes, Then Restores, Elizabeth Warren's Ads Criticizing It

https://www.thestreet.com/investing/stocks/facebook-removes-elizabeth-warren-ads-14894263

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.

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House aide: NSA has shut down phone call record surveillance

https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2019/03/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.

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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.

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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.

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Source: Leaked Documents Show the U.S. Government Tracking Journalists and Immigration Advocates Through a Secret Database

https://www.nbcsandiego.com/investigations/Source-Leaked-Documents-Show-the-US-Government-Tracking-Journalists-and-Advocates-Through-a-Secret-Database-506783231.html

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.

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Looking for travel deals? Stay off the dark web

https://www.seattletimes.com/life/travel/travel-wise-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.

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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