Security News Digest
Information Security Branch

British Columbia OCIO | Office of the Chief Information Officer

August 13th, 2019

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This week's stories:

- Federal government launches cybersecurity certification program for 🇨🇦
- Ottawa's cybersecurity action plan includes $10M for special projects 🇨🇦
- Theft of trade secrets and technology a threat to Canada's economic security, spy agency warns 🇨🇦
- Revealed: Microsoft Contractors Are Listening to Some Skype Calls
- Twitter says bugs in ad system led to data leaks
- Russia 'turns a blind eye' to its hackers going after Western organizations: Report
- Cybersecurity Pros Name Their Price as Hacker Attacks Swell
- Customer Information Exposed In Air New Zealand Phishing Attack
- 3Fun Dating App Exposes Exact Location of Users and Personal Info
- Foreign Power Was Behind Cyber Attack on Czech Ministry: Senate

Federal government launches cybersecurity certification program for SMBs 🇨🇦

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/federal-government-launches-cybersecurity-certification-program-for-smbs/420823

The federal government on Monday launched the long-awaited cybersecurity certification for small and mid-sized businesses in hopes of increasing the attention SMBs pay to cybersecurity as well as increasing the confidence of online shoppers who buy from Canadian sites.

The CyberSecure Canada program allows organizations to prove to a certification body approved by the Standards Council of Canada that they meet certain minimum standards. Those that pass are entitled to use a logo on websites and promotional material attesting that they have met the standard. They will also be listed in a searchable registry available for consumers and partners.

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Ottawa's cybersecurity action plan includes $10M for special projects 🇨🇦

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/ottawas-cybersecurity-action-plan-includes-10m-for-special-projects/420740

Just over a year after announcing an updated federal cybersecurity strategy, Ottawa has revealed how it will be implemented.

The action plan for improving the resilience of the federal and critical infrastructure includes $10.3 million over five years for special projects created by provincial, territorial and municipal governments, researchers, commercial companies and not for profits. Of that total, $2.3 million has been set aside for the next 12 months.

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Theft of trade secrets and technology a threat to Canada’s economic security, spy agency warns 🇨🇦

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2019/08/06/theft-of-trade-secrets-and-technology-a-threat-to-canadas-economic-security-spy-agency-warns.html

OTTAWA—Canada faces “growing threats” to its economic security from a small group of hostile actors bent on stealing trade secrets and technology, according to a 2018 briefing by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

In a briefing to unnamed “stakeholders” in Ontario last year, CSIS said that in addition to traditional spying and cyber security threats, an increasingly complex global environment has increased the threats to Canadian “economic and strategic interests.”

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Revealed: Microsoft Contractors Are Listening to Some Skype Calls

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/xweqbq/microsoft-contractors-listen-to-skype-calls

Contractors working for Microsoft are listening to personal conversations of Skype users conducted through the app's translation service, according to a cache of internal documents, screenshots, and audio recordings obtained by Motherboard. Although Skype's website says that the company may analyze audio of phone calls that a user wants to translate in order to improve the chat platform's services, it does not say some of this analysis will be done by humans.

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Twitter says bugs in ad system led to data leaks

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/twitter-reveals-bugs-in-ad-system-led-to-data-leaks/420702

After revealing that a bug in its advertising system led to users’ location data being inadvertently leaked to advertisers back in May, Twitter has revealed further leaks in its system.

Twitter is blaming them on issues with its advertisement settings. According to a blog post, Twitter said that there were two elements to this newest issue.

Firstly, Twitter said that users who clicked or viewed an ad for a mobile application and then subsequently interacted with that application had personal certain data, such as country codes and other data related to their interactions with the app, shared with the advertiser despite having settings in place to prevent this.

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Russia ‘turns a blind eye’ to its hackers going after Western organizations: Report

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/russia-turns-a-blind-eye-to-its-hackers-going-after-western-organizations-report/420726

Allegations that sophisticated Chinese and North Korean based criminal groups are targeting Western governments and corporations aren’t new. But a report out today says the leading threat actors come from Russia.

“There is no other hacking community that can boast such a breadth of knowledge, resources, and manpower,” says the report from New York-based IntSights Cyber Intelligence.

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Cybersecurity Pros Name Their Price as Hacker Attacks Swell

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-08-07/cybersecurity-pros-name-their-price-as-hacker-attacks-multiply

It took a $650,000 salary for Matt Comyns to entice a seasoned cybersecurity expert to join one of America’s largest companies as chief information security officer in 2012. At the time, it was among the most lucrative offers out there.

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Customer Information Exposed In Air New Zealand Phishing Attack

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/customer-information-exposed-in-air-new-zealand-phishing-attack/

Air New Zealand sent e-mails to customers enrolled in its Airpoints loyalty program to warn them of a phishing attack that successfully compromised the email accounts of two staff members which potentially led to personal information being accessed by the attackers.

According to its website, Air New Zealand has carried roughly 17 million passengers every year to 51 destinations around the world.

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3Fun Dating App Exposes Exact Location of Users and Personal Info

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/3fun-dating-app-exposes-exact-location-of-users-and-personal-info/

The 3Fun dating mobile app for "curious couples & singles" exposed the precise location of its users along with personal details like date of birth and pictures that should have been protected by built-in privacy settings.

Geo-location details in the form of latitude and longitude were available with high precision, pinpointing the user wherever they happened to be at the time of using the app.

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Foreign Power Was Behind Cyber Attack on Czech Ministry: Senate

https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2019-08-13/foreign-power-was-behind-cyber-attack-on-czech-ministry-senate

A foreign state staged the latest cyber attack targeting the Czech Foreign Ministry, the Senate's security committee said on Tuesday, though it did not identify the nation concerned or provide any details on the incident.

Earlier, the Czech daily Denik N reported that the cyber attack on the Foreign Ministry had taken place in June but that no confidential data was compromised. Citing three sources, the paper also said the attack had originated in Russia.

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