






December 3rd, 2019

Try our December quiz – [Shopping Safety](#)

Thank you for attending Security Day ... save the date for the spring event, May 27th.

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Virtual-kidnapping extortion scheme, targeting Chinese victims, resurfaces in Vancouver



<https://www.straight.com/tech/1317776/virtual-kidnapping-extortion-scheme-targeting-chinese-victims-resurfaces-vancouver>

Police are warning that a virtual-kidnapping scam that has taken place in the Lower Mainland in recent years, primarily targeting Chinese people, has reappeared in Metro Vancouver.

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) stated in a news release issued today (October 24) that on the evening of October 23, foreign fraudsters tried to extort a 27-year-old Vancouver man of thousands of dollars.

[Click link above to read more](#)

As its powers grow, cyber intelligence agency looks to fill hundreds of job vacancies 

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/cse-recruitment-vacancies-1.5378493>

Canada's foreign signals intelligence agency says it's struggling to find Canadians to fill vacancies as it grows its presence online.

The Communications Security Establishment (CSE) grew another head last year when it launched the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security.

The centre leads the government's response to cyber security events, defends Ottawa's cyber assets and provides advice to Canadian industries, businesses and citizens on how to protect themselves online. An average day can see the hub's team block more than 100 million malicious infiltration attempts.

[Click link above to read more](#)

Cornwall, Ont., woman loses life savings to terrifying 'SIN scam'

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/sin-scam-fraud-1.5378917>

A Cornwall, Ont., woman has lost all her money after falling victim to a scam the RCMP are calling the top identity fraud in Canada.

Julia-Shea Baker, a 23-year-old server, lost \$4,000 to the "SIN scam," a new version of the Canada Revenue Agency fraudulent act that's been used for years to dupe people out of their money.

It all started two weeks ago when Baker got a terrifying call from Service Canada telling her that her social insurance number had been compromised. The caller identified himself as RCMP investigator Steve Rogers.

[Click link above to read more](#)

Thousands of Disney+ accounts have been hacked, sold online on dark web: reports

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6185648/disney-plus-accounts-hack-dark-web/>

Thousands of Disney+ accounts have been hacked and are being sold online on the dark web, according to a report published Monday.

Tech news website ZDNet published a story where it had found thousands of Disney+ accounts were either being offered for free or sold online across several hacking forums.

Some of the accounts were priced as low as \$4 (US\$3) to as much as \$14.50 (US\$11). The cost of a subscription to Disney+ in Canada is \$8.99 a month — well below the price of what was being sold online.

[Click link above to read more](#)

Palo Alto suffers data breach. are its customers' networks secured?

<https://www.securitynewspaper.com/2019/11/28/palo-alto-suffers-data-breach-are-its-customers-networks-secured/>

Information security specialists reported that Palo Alto Networks, a major security firm based in California, US, has become victim to a data breach that led to the exposure of personal information from former and current employees. Compromised data include details such as names, dates of birth, and employee social security numbers.

Through a private email sent to its employees and users, the company claims that the incident occurred due to security errors at an external service company, adding that the contract with that company, whose name was not disclosed, has been dissolved. This decision, made by Nikesh Arora, CEO of Palo Alto Networks, generated controversy among the cybersecurity community, as it is not a measure that is used in these kinds of incidents.

[Click link above to read more](#)

Twitter launches privacy center to explain what it's actually doing with your data

<https://www.cnet.com/news/twitter-launches-privacy-center-to-explain-what-its-actually-doing-with-your-data/>

Twitter on Monday launched a privacy center, admitting it has "room for improvement" when it comes to protecting user privacy. The Twitter Privacy Center plans to spell out more clearly what the social media giant is doing to safeguard the information users share with the site. Twitter also said in a series of tweets that it's updating its terms and privacy policy, which go into effect Jan. 1.

"We believe companies should be accountable to the people that trust them with their personal information, and responsible not only to protect that information but to explain how they do it," according to a company blog post.

[Click link above to read more](#)

4 scams to watch out for this holiday season

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/rcmp-fraud-spike-4-scams-1.5378648>

As shoppers gear up for the holiday season, police say fraudsters are also preparing to take advantage of those who aren't careful.

The holidays are ripe for fraudulent activity, with various types of scams appearing around this time of year, according to Jeff Thomson, a senior intelligence analyst with the RCMP's fraud unit.

[Click link above to read more](#)

Laboratories in China are mining DNA samples to map faces with help from the west

<https://www.firstpost.com/tech/science/laboratories-in-china-are-mining-dna-samples-to-map-faces-with-help-from-the-west-7732341.html>

In a dusty city in the Xinjiang region on China's western frontier, the authorities are testing the rules of science.

With 1 million or more ethnic Uighurs and others from predominantly Muslim minority groups swept up in detentions across Xinjiang, officials in Tumxuk have gathered blood samples from hundreds of Uighurs — part of a mass DNA collection effort dogged by questions about consent and how the data will be used.

In Tumxuk, at least, there is a partial answer: Chinese scientists are trying to find a way to use a DNA sample to create an image of a person's face.

[Click link above to read more](#)

Why encryption is failing us

<https://www.techradar.com/news/why-encryption-is-failing-us>

Encryption is viewed by many as "bullet proof" technology. Along with antivirus software, organisations swear by it, and consumers feel overly confident knowing that their recent transactions and personal data are encrypted.

Despite the confidence around this "go-to" technology, time has shown that encryption is just not enough. In fact, it's failing us.

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