



NORTH DAKOTA STATE AND LOCAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

Bi-Weekly Cyber Rollup

July 16, 2021

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NORTH DAKOTA AND REGIONAL

(U) Preventing Ransomware Attacks In North Dakota

(U) Information Technology departments across the country are on high alert following the recent uptick in ransomware attacks. Protecting the state's data is always a top priority for the North Dakota Information Technology Department (NDIT). "We're seeing an increase in the number of ransomware events all over the nation. One of the major reasons for that is because the amount of money that criminals are able to receive from ransomware events is high," said Kevin Ford, Chief Information Security Officer for NDIT.

Source: (U) <https://www.kfyrtv.com/2021/07/12/preventing-ransomware-attacks-north-dakota/>

(U) New FirstNet Cell Site Launches on Yankton Sioux Reservation

(U) First responders serving the Yankton Sioux tribal communities got a major boost in their wireless communications thanks to the FirstNet network expansion currently underway by AT&T. The company has added a new, purpose-built cell site southwest of Wagner, South Dakota, on the Yankton Sioux Reservation near Marty, to give first responders on FirstNet – America's public safety network – access to always-on priority and pre-emption across voice and data.

Source: (U) <https://www.intelligentcio.com/north-america/2021/06/22/new-firstnet-cell-site-launches-on-yankton-sioux-reservation/>

(U) These States Saw the Most Hacks In 2020

(U) A report uses FBI data to parse out state-by-state hacking data by the number of victims and total financial losses for every 100,000 residents. Nevada topped the roundup by a significant margin with 523 hacking victims per 100,000 residents. For perspective, the District of Columbia claimed the second-highest ratio with 302 attack victims per 100,000 residents.

Source: (U) <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/these-states-saw-the-most-hacks-in-2020/>

(U) CyberCon 2021 Registration Is Open

(U) Registration is now open for CyberCon 2021. Come hear talks from industry experts on a variety of topics related to cybersecurity and critical infrastructure. Don't miss this networking opportunity with leaders and peers from across the state, region, and country!

Source: (U) <https://cyberconbsc.com/register/>

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NATIONAL

(U) Wisconsin's Insurance Cybersecurity Measures Signed into Law

(U) Wisconsin's governor has signed into law, legislation creating new cybersecurity requirements for protecting data collected by the insurance industry. With some exceptions, this law will require anybody licensed with OCI, including insurers and agents, to develop an information security program that protects its systems and data.

Source: (U) <https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/midwest/2021/07/16/623168.htm>

(U) Bills to Strengthen Cybersecurity Advance in Senate

(U) The U.S. Senate advanced this week legislation authored by U.S. Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) designed to protect public and private networks from cyber threats. The K-12 Cybersecurity Act and the Supply Chain Security Training Act passed unanimously in the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The bills would enhance cybersecurity guidance for schools across the country and secure federal information technology supply chains against cyber threats.

Source: (U) <https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/71346-bills-to-strengthen-cybersecurity-advance-in-senate/>

(U) Connecticut Enacts Cybersecurity Breach Safe Harbor

(U) On July 6, 2021, Connecticut enacted a new law (Public Act 21-119) that creates a safe harbor for companies that followed certain cybersecurity protocols in the event there's a security breach. The new Connecticut law is similar to the one Ohio enacted in 2018. Both laws apply to "covered entities" that possess "personal information" and suffer a "breach of security of the system" under that state's data breach notification law.

Source: (U) <https://www.dataprotectionreport.com/2021/07/connecticut-enacts-cybersecurity-breach-safe-harbor/>

(U) DHS Cybersecurity Chief Confirmed Amid Fallout from Another Ransomware Attack

(U) The Senate on Monday unanimously confirmed Jen Easterly to lead the Department of Homeland Security's cybersecurity division, a role that will be key in the administration's cybersecurity efforts. Easterly, a two-time recipient of the Bronze Star, was nominated by President Joe Biden in April to be the second director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Source: (U) <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/12/politics/jen-easterly-confirmed-dhs-cybersecurity-chief/index.html>

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INTERNATIONAL

(U) Chinese Regulators Send Teams to Didi For Cybersecurity Review

(U) The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) said on Friday that officials from at least seven departments sent on-site teams to conduct a cybersecurity review of ride-hailing giant Didi Global Inc. China is in the process of revamping its policy towards privacy and data security. It is drafting a Personal Information Protection Law, which calls for tech platforms to impose stricter measures to ensure secure storage of user data.

Source: (U) <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4250114>

(U) Israel, Morocco Ink Cybersecurity Deal

(U) The National Cyber Directorate announced on Thursday that it has signed a cybersecurity agreement with Morocco, the first cyber-defense deal since the normalization of relations between the two countries last year as part of the Abraham Accords. The agreement provides for the establishment of cooperation in research, development and operational areas and the sharing of information and knowledge.

Source: (U) <https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/07/16/israel-morocco-ink-cybersecurity-deal/>

(U) Singapore Is Launching A \$50 Million Program to Advance Research on AI and Cybersecurity

(U) Singapore plans to invest \$50 million in a program to support research on AI and cybersecurity for future communications structures, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat announced on Tuesday. As part of the Future Communications Research & Development Programme, Singapore plans to set up new communications testbeds in 5G and beyond-5G, support technology development, and build up a local talent pool.

Source: (U) <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/13/singapore-to-launch-50-million-program-in-ai-cybersecurity-research-for-5g.html>

(U) Japan To Bolster National Cybersecurity Defence with 800 New Hires

(U) Japan's Ministry of Defense has announced plans to bolster its cybersecurity unit by bringing on additional personnel to help defend against increasingly sophisticated attacks. The cybersecurity unit is currently responsible for protecting shared systems used by Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF). A new unit, however, will be stood up and launched in 2022 to oversee the cyber defence for the entire SDF and consolidate units for each branch, Nikkei said in the report.

Source: (U) <https://www.zdnet.com/article/japan-to-bolster-national-cybersecurity-defence-with-800-new-hires-report/>

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