Newsletter April 2021



Center for Cyber Security and International Relations Studies

Cyber Policy, Diplomacy & Legal Framework

- <u>Brazil publishes national artificial intelligence strategy</u> The plan outlines the framework for fostering research and development in the field and driving Al innovation to solve the country's key challenges.
- France in bid to 'step up the fight against pirate sites' with new super-regulator



Upcoming Events

April 25

8th CSIT 2021

A new super-regulator, the Autorité de régulation de la communication audiovisuelle et numérique (ARCOM) is to be created from the merger of the Haute Autorité pour la diffusion des œuvres et la protection des droits sur Internet (HADOPI) and the Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel (CSA) in order to "step up the fight against pirate sites and to include this action in a broader policy of regulating online content", according to the Ministry of Culture website.

• <u>Biden rebuilds cybersecurity alliances but risks creating a techno-democratic clique</u> Under Donald Trump, US global leadership on cyber issues came to a screeching halt. But 'America is back' under President Joe Biden. Observers can expect sensible, expert-crafted policy that unpicks the policy discord while maintaining the previous administration's focus on technology competition and trusted networks.

• <u>What the Integrated Review Means for the UK's Cyber Strategy</u> The UK government's Integrated Review (IR) of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy touches on a sweeping range of issues, from climate change to the nuclear deterrent, quantum computing to biodiversity.

Cyber Security



• <u>Ransomware: The internet's biggest security crisis is getting worse. We</u> need a way out

Organisations continue to fall victim to ransomware, and yet progress on tackling these attacks, which now constitute one of the biggest security







problems on the internet, remains slow.From small companies to councils, government agencies and big business, the number and range of organisations hit by ransomware is rising.

- <u>Researcher release PoC exploit for 0-day in Chrome, Edge, Brave, Opera</u> An Indian security researcher Rajvardhan Agarwal has released a PoC (proof-of-concept) exploit code for a vulnerability that's mainly impacting web browsers. It is a remote code execution flaw in the V8 JavaScript and affects all Chromium-bases browsers apart from Google Chrome, such as MS Edge, Brave, and Opera.
- Nation-state cyberattacks targeting businesses are on the rise An analysis of nation-state cyberattacks between 2017 and 2020 reveals that just over a third of organisations targeted were businesses: cyber defence, media, government and critical infrastructure are all also common targets in these attacks, but enterprise has risen to the top of the list.
- IBM flags more cyber attacks on global COVID-19 vaccine infrastructure International Business Machines Corp said on Wednesday its cybersecurity unit has uncovered more digital attacks targeting the global COVID-19 vaccine supply chain since the issue was originally flagged late last year.

Cyber Warfare, Intelligence and Terrorism

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 <u>Russia launched over a million cyber attacks in three months</u> Over a million network attacks originated from Russia from November 2020 to January 2021, according to a new report. Unit 42 security researchers looked at network attack trends from last winter and found that 1.3 million seemed to originate from Russia. The US and China were numbers two and three, respectively



- IC warns that U.S. adversaries are ramping up cyber attacks
 In its first publicly available worldwide threat assessment report since 2019, the intelligence community is warning that the United States' adversaries are increasingly using cyberspace to attack the country and that activities of foreign militaries will be more likely to impact civilian society.
- <u>FBI accessing computers across US to remove malicious web shells</u> The FBI is accessing computers across the United States without informing owners to prevent Hafnium Group from Exploiting MS Exchange Server vulnerabilities.
- <u>China launches hotline for netizens to report 'illegal' history comments</u> China's cyber regulator has launched a hotline to report online comments that defame the ruling Communist Party and its history, vowing to crack down on "historical nihilists" ahead of the Party's 100th anniversary in July.



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Emerging Technologies

• DoD space agency: Cyber attacks, not missiles, are the most worrisome threat to satellites



Intelligence agencies and analysts warn China and Russia are developing missiles that could strike U.S. satellites in Iow-Earth orbit.

• <u>The Netherlands invests 615 million euros in Quantum Delta NL, bringing</u> <u>quantum technology to the next level in Europe</u>

he Netherlands continues to play a leading role in building a world-class European quantum ecosystem. To amplify this, the Dutch government formalized the Dutch strategy on quantum technologies by presenting today an investment plan of €615 million over seven years

• What are the future prospects of a Cloud architect?

The people who are responsible for the management of the Cloud computing architecture in an organization are known as cloud architects. They are involved with everything related to cloud computing, from storage or delivery to servers and networks which are used to manage cloud storage.

Italian Focus

<u>Cyber security goes into orbit. And Italy can be a major player</u>

Italy is called upon to play a strategic role, in order to ensure its contribution at European and international level, as well as strengthen the capabilities of the country system in the spatial context

 Italy to spend 60% more of EU funds on better broadband, sources say

Italy aims to spend almost 7 billion euros (\$8.33 billion) in European recovery funds on ultra-fast networks, up 60% from a previous goal, as ministers lay out alternatives to a long-delayed single national broadband plan, sources told Reuters.



- <u>Hackers Hit Italian Menswear Brand Boggi Milano With Ransomware</u> A group of hackers executed a ransomware attack Wednesday on Italian menswear premium brand Boggi Milano, according to people familiar with the matter and documents seen by Bloomberg.
- <u>Web scraping, all about the technique used to steal Facebook and LinkedIn data</u> Web scraping (or even web data scraping) is a particular technique for extracting data from websites using automated tools. It has recently been exploited to carry out huge data leaks on Facebook, LinkedIn and Clubhouse.



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European Focus



• EU set to tilt AI balance in favour of citizen rights

In a leaked draft of proposed regulations on artificial intelligence (AI) in Europe, the European Union (EU) has set out plans to establish a central database of high-risk AI systems.

• Why cyber security should be a key part of Europe's Indo-Pacific strategy

Making cyber security an integral part of a European approach to the Indo-Pacific could provide a framework for cooperation with EU partners in the region

<u>Microsoft launches new initiative to advance European perspectives on global</u>
 <u>cybersecurity policy debates</u>

The European Cyber Agora builds on the objectives of the EU Cybersecurity Strategy, released in December last year, which sets out ambitious plans for the EU and its Member States to advance technical cooperation, crisis management, security standards, cyber diplomacy, capacity building and, in particular, multistakeholderism.

• Cybersecurity: Council adopts conclusions on the EU's cybersecurity strategy

The Council today adopted conclusions on the EU's cybersecurity strategy for the digital decade. This strategy was presented by the Commission and the high representative for foreign affairs in December 2020. It outlines the framework for EU action to protect EU citizens and businesses from cyber threats, promote secure information systems and protect a global, open, free and secure cyberspace.



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