# **Newsletter December 2020**

## **Upcoming Events**

1st-25th Dec Advent of Cyber



#### Cyber Policy, Diplomacy & Legal Framework

How Biden Could Change the Conversation on Cybersecurity
 The incoming administration could mean significant changes for technology, especially where federal cybersecurity is concerned. The increased attention will no doubt mean big changes for state and local governments as well.



- <u>Facebook facing US legal action over competition</u>
   US federal regulators and more than 45 state prosecutors have sued Facebook, accusing the social media company of taking illegal actions to buy up rivals and stifle competition.
- <u>Debating the rules</u>
   The advent of the digital age has prompted robust cybercrime legislation worldwide. The challenges arising from the increasing use of digital media are pushing governments to formulate new laws for a balance between freedom of expression and national security.
- Google, Facebook and Twitter threaten to leave Pakistan over censorship law
   Global internet companies Facebook, Google and Twitter and others have banded together and threatened to leave Pakistan after the South Asian nation granted blanket powers to local regulators to censor digital content.

### **Cyber Security**

U.S. cybersecurity firm FireEye discloses breach, theft of hacking tools



FireEye, one of the largest cybersecurity companies in the United States, said on Tuesday (8<sup>th</sup> Dec.)that it had been hacked, likely by a government, and that an arsenal of hacking tools used to test the defences of its clients had been stolen.

• <u>Lightning does strike twice: If you get hacked once, you'll probably be attacked again</u> within a year



The Crowdstrike Services Cyber Front Lines report uses analysis of real-world cases where the cybersecurity company has been brought in to help combat cyberattacks and it reveals that in over two-thirds of of cases where there were outside intrusions onto the network, cyber criminals will attempt to break into the same network within one year.

- The Internet's Most Notorious Botnet Has an Alarming New Trick
  In just the last two months, the cybercriminal-controlled botnet known as TrickBot has become, by some measures, public enemy number one for the cybersecurity community. It's survived takedown attempts by Microsoft, a supergroup of security firms, and even US Cyber Command.
- What's the key to tackling cyberattacks? Building a diverse team to think smarter
   Cybersecurity teams must have a diverse mindset to provide the best means of protecting
   businesses, governments and others from cyberattacks and that collaboration is the key to
   ensuring different perspectives can come together in the fight against cybercrime.

### Cyber Warfare, Intelligence and Terrorism

US treasury and commerce departments targeted in cyber-attack
US federal agencies have been hacked in a way that may have let a foreign power monitor government communications. The treasury and commerce departments have both been attacked. And all federal civilian agencies have been told to disconnect from SolarWinds Orion, a computer network tool being exploited by "malicious actors".



- Vietnam: Facebook and Google 'complicit' in censorship
   Facebook and Google have aided the Vietnamese government in censoring criticism and repressing dissent, says rights group Amnesty. In a new report, the group accuses the tech giants of "far-reaching complicity" by blocking content deemed critical of authorities.
- Will Britain's establishment of national cyber force work?
  As the U.K. takes a step back from the world stage as Brexit bites, Boris Johnson has unveiled ambitious plans for a national cyber force and a 'space command' to ensure the nation remains an important player on the global stage.
- Hackers leverage Facebook, Dropbox to spy on Egypt, Palestinians
   An Arabic-speaking hacking group that's used phishing emails laden with sensational headlines focused on the Middle East to spy on government officials is leveraging recent diplomatic activity to conduct espionage

#### Cyber Opportunities: Economy, Research & Innovation

Chinese Researchers Create Optical Circuit-Driven Quantum Super Computer.





A team of researchers from various research institutes across China have recently demonstrated quantum supremacy thanks to a photonic quantum computer. A paper recently published by the journal Science describes the

quantum computer as "Jiuzhang".

- What is neuromorphic computing? Everything you need to know about how it is changing the future of computing
  - Most hardware today is based on the von Neumann architecture, which separates out memory and computing. Because von Neumann chips have to shuttle information back and forth between the memory and CPU, they waste time (computations are held back by the speed of the bus between the compute and memory) and energy -- a problem known as the von Neumann bottleneck.
- <u>Singapore's government launches blockchain innovation program with \$8.9 million in funding</u> A group of Singaporean government agencies is launching a new research program for blockchain technology with \$12 million SGD (about \$8.9 million USD) in funding.
- Al Algorithms Are Slimming Down to Fit in Your Fridge
   Artificial Intelligence has made stunning strides, but it often needs absurd amounts of data
   and computer power to get there. Now some Al researchers are focused on making the
   technology as efficient as possible.

#### **Italian Focus**

Italian police arrest suspects in Leonardo military, defense data theff The Naples Public Prosecutor's Office said on November 5 that an ongoing cyberattack was maintained against the Aerostructures and Aircraft Division of Leonardo SpA, one of the largest defense contractors worldwide.



- <u>Cashback and Receipt Lottery, the privacy risks that everyone underestimates</u>
  The Cashback and Receipt Lottery measures present privacy risks, in particular with regard to the transfer of data to non-EU countries: the Guarantor has also expressed an opinion on the issue. Here's what's wrong and should be seen carefully
- Leonardo cyberattack, the Banality of Evil If it were a movie, the story of the cyberattack on Leonardo would be a flop. Slow, banal, a happy ending. But it's not a movie. The main characters are two unfaithful employees: an external consultant who infected the PCs of Pomigliano d'Arco workers via malware, and an executive in charge of stopping these attacks who, having discovered it, would have minimized their scope even to superiors and investigators.
- Cyber threat intelligence: present and future in Italy and Europe.



In the eighth annual report ENISA Threat Landscape (ETL), the point on the main cyber threats and on the progress of cyber threat intelligence (CTI) as a dynamic domain of cyber security. The different use cases, the future prospects in the national and EU field

# **European Focus**

Hackers accessed vaccine documents in cyber-attack on EMA



German biotech firm BioNTech said on Wednesday that documents relating to the Covid-19 vaccine it has developed with Pfizer were "unlawfully accessed" after a cyber-attack on Europe's medicines regulator.

• Romania to host the EU's new cybersecurity research hub

The European Council voted on Wednesday to locate the EU's future cybersecurity research hub in Bucharest, Romania's capital. Named the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre, or the ECCC, the new hub is set to start operating next year.

- Search is on to find European Digital Innovation Hubs

  The process of finding Ireland's additions to a network of European Digital Innovation Hubs
  begins today (9 December) with a call for expressions of interest. The vision for these
  European Digital Innovation Hubs forms part of the €9.2bn Digital Europe Programme set to
  begin next year.
- Commission reveals details on bolstered cybersecurity rules
   The 2016 NIS Directive lays down new standards for cybersecurity resilience across essential services and also introduces requirements for cross-border cooperation and threat intelligence sharing