Welcome to the Cyveillance Weekly Trends Report

Greetings from Cyveillance, the leader in open source threat intelligence. Since threat intelligence is constantly evolving, we publish this newsletter to keep our customers updated on the latest threats to various industries. Each week, we'll send you highlights from our analyst research reports. You can unsubscribe at any time. For the latest security news stories throughout the day, you can also follow us on Twitter, or to view the latest security articles from Cyveillance experts, subscribe to our blog.

In this Issue:

- Top Weekly Incidents
- Energy
- Agribusiness
- Insurance / Healthcare
- Financial Services
- Global Intelligence
- Legal and Regulations
- Pharmaceuticals
- Retail
- Technology
- Telecommunications
- Defense
- Law Enforcement

Register Today for our December 17, 2014 Webinar

Making the Business Case for Threat Intelligence: How to Justify and Implement a New Approach to Security

Experts agree that threat intelligence – not just data – is increasingly vital. Join us for our next webinar to learn how you can make a practical case for including threat intelligence in your budget.

Register Now

Top Incidents

Energy

- In Vancouver over a hundred pipeline opponents gathered in a church hall to take part in a day of non-violent direct action training held by ForestEthics and other environmental advocacy groups. The activists taught the citizens about the history of direct action, protest techniques and civil rights. Organizers stated that more session were planned in light of the standoff and legal action between Kinder Morgan and protesters on Burnaby Mountain.

Agribusiness

- USDA said it certified four processing plants in China's Shandong Province to cook and ship poultry meat to U.S. customers, the latest step in a decade-old proposal. The consumer group Food and Water Watch faulted the Food Safety and Inspection
Service for an "ill-conceived decision" and said "there have been scores of food safety scandals in China." USDA added the four processing plants to its list of "eligible foreign establishments".

**Insurance/Healthcare**

- British fraud experts have uncovered "significant" links between insurance fraudsters and terrorist groups, but wider publicity of the issue by the industry is being prevented amid police concerns. Market views on instances of insurance fraud funding terrorism were aired following a speech by Metropolitan Police commissioner Mark Rowley at the British Bankers' Association conference in late September, in which he claimed "a third of counter-terrorism policing," as measured by arrests, was fraud-related. In particular, Rowley linked false claims on home and motor insurance policies to the travel of radicalised British Muslims to join the Islamic State movement in Syria and Iraq.

**Financial Services**

- The national home improvement store that recently suffered a major data breach released an update on November 6, 2014 that in addition to the 56 million credit card accounts that were compromised, around 53 million customer email addresses were stolen as well.

**Global Intelligence**

- A communication firm that powers a number of popular websites in Vietnam said it fell victim to a targeted attack which hackers had spent half a year preparing for and invested some half a million U.S. dollars. An initial investigation report suggests that the culprit behind the attack in mid-October is the infamous Sinh Tu Lenh (Life and Death Command) hacker group.

**Legal and Regulations**

- The Spanish parliament has passed what is commonly known as the "Google tax," although it's technically not a tax and doesn't apply solely to Google. Rather, it's an intellectual property law requiring online news aggregators to pay fees for describing and linking to stories published by Spanish newspapers; failure to pay can expose the aggregator to penalties up to $758,000 (€600,000). Moreover, according to The Independent, the Spanish law characterizes these fees as an "inalienable right" (derecho irrenunciable) that "overrides any concept of 'fair use.'" Not surprisingly, the new law has sparked criticism, with Gizmodo observing that this makes Spain essentially "the first country in the world to charge for linking online."

**Pharmaceuticals**

- Silk Road 2, a replacement for the notorious online drug bazaar that went dark in October of 2013, has been seized in a joint action involving the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and European law enforcement. The hidden site and its forums now display only a splash page, and an FBI spokesperson confirmed with The Verge that the domain had in fact been shut down. In a public statement, the FBI and Homeland Security said that they had also arrested suspected operator Blake Benthall ("Defcon") in California on Wednesday.

**Retail**

- Home Depot has announced that hackers stole more than 53 million e-mail addresses. This is in addition to the 56 million payment cards they grabbed.

**Technology**

- Verizon's legal counsel has published a new blog post threatening the FCC with legal action if the government regulatory body attempts to curtail the company's egregious behavior over net neutrality, while simultaneously arguing that the regulatory methods
Telecommunications

- “Emergency protests” took place nationwide in opposition to rumored rulings by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on Net Neutrality. The protestors modeled their demonstrations after Hungary’s recent protests against an Internet Tax where demonstrators used candles, cell phones and tablets to “shine light on the corporate pushed corruption that is unfolding in Washington, DC.”

Defense

- NATO is now taking cyber threats as seriously as the Russian tanks and nuclear weapons it was created to deter. But the alliance has a long way to go just to shore up its own network defenses, and it explicitly eschews any role on the offense. NATO has not even written a formal policy on how it would deter a cyber-attack. The net result is a certain degree of strategic ambiguity.

Law Enforcement

- Activists recently asked for advance notice before prosecutors announce whether a Ferguson police officer will face charges in the shooting death of Michael Brown, saying they can help prevent widespread violence if they have 48 hours to prepare for protests. Members of the Don’t Shoot Coalition said at a news conference they want to “de-escalate violence without de-escalating action” once a grand jury decides whether to indict Officer Darren Wilson. The coalition represents more than 25 organizations including union workers, clergy, anti-war activists and black empowerment groups. Its members are leaders of the protests that erupted across the region after Brown's death and have continued in the three months since.

Energy

- DeSmogBlog.com reports that less than 24 hours after Denton became the first Texas city to ban fracking within city limits, the city is being sued. The Texas General Land Office and the Texas Oil and Gas Association are the first to challenge the new ordinance. It is likely that challenges will appear from Texas legislators who have threatened to pass legislation to take away home rule powers from cities that oppose the oil and gas industry.

- The Huffington Post reports that three communities in Colorado succeeded in passing fracking moratoriums or outright bans on election night. Anti-fracking measures had passed handily in the Colorado cities of Lafayette, Boulder and Fort Collins, but appeared to be failing in neighboring Broomfield, where rumors began swirling of a recount.

- In Turkey a man has spent three months rowing 930 miles along the Black Sea coastline in protest of the country’s first nuclear power station. Huseyin Urkmez describes his action as a “symbolic demonstration” against nuclear power plants in the country. “I wanted to draw attention to demands for a nuclear-free country only through my physical strength. If there is one thing as difficult as rowing against the current, it is challenging the government’s calculations.” Turkey’s first nuclear plant is expected to be operational by 2023 and will be run by the Russian state company Rosatom.

- In Tokyo hundreds of people are protesting near the Prime Minister’s office in opposition to Japan’s decision to restart a nuclear plant. Activists say that more than three years after the Fukushima disaster proper safety and evacuation plans are still not in place.

- In Vancouver over a hundred pipeline opponents gathered in a church hall to take part
in a day of non-violent direct action training held by ForestEthics and other environmental advocacy groups. The activists taught the citizens about the history of direct action, protest techniques and civil rights. Organizers stated that more session were planned in light of the standoff and legal action between Kinder Morgan and protesters on Burnaby Mountain.

- In Florida activists with Everglades Earth First! held a protest to halt what they call the “illegal” construction by Kolter Development in Palm Beach Garden’s Briger Forest. A disabled vehicle was placed across the roadway of the construction entrance and two people chained their bodies to it. “We’re here stopping a crime; the illegal destruction of the Briger Forest. Kolter Group Co. is violating the Endangered Species Act and operating without all the proper permits fully approved,” Said Ryan Hartman. “The time for compromise is over. If we don’t take direct action and put our bodies on the line to protect what we have left, developers will pave over and pollute every last inch of this place.”

- A new special report from Earthjustice exposes the “unparalleled political spending by dirty energy industries” intent on defeating the EPA’s climate initiative.

- 50 people gathered on Solomons Island in Maryland, where Dominion Energy is building a giant pier to receive enormous shipments for the construction of their planned LNG export terminal at nearby Cove Point. A group of people stormed a giant dirt mound in the middle of the site with a banner that read “We > Dominion profits.” 11 arrests were made including two photographers.

- Denton, TX became the first city in Texas to ban hydraulic fracturing as voters approved a grassroots initiative against the controversial drilling method.

- Less than 24 hours after Denton became the first Texas city to ban fracking within city limits, the city was sued. The Texas General Land Office and the Texas Oil and Gas Association were the first to challenge the new ordinance.

- France’s constitutional court has upheld a ban on hydraulic fracturing, ruling that the law against the energy exploration technique known as “fracking” is a valid means of protecting the environment. The court in Paris said on its website that the 2011 law “conforms to the constitution” and is not “disproportionate”.

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**Agribusiness**

- A November 4, 2014 fire at a poultry operation on a North Cornwall Township farm in Lebanon, PA killed 20,000 hatchling chickens and caused an estimated $500,000 in damages. Officials ruled that the cause of the fire could not be determined due to the severity of the blaze.

- On November 4, 2014, voters in Colorado voted down Proposition 105 to mandate GMO labeling on food, with approximately 65% of votes opposing the bill.

- On November 4, 2014, voters in Oregon narrowly turned down Measure 92, requiring GMO labels on food, with less than 51% of voters opposing the bill.

- On November 11, 2014, the European Parliament will amend a law on national bans of genetically modified foods. Opponents have criticized the law adopted in June 2014, saying it was riddled with legal loopholes. Organizations such as Greenpeace expect the laws against GMO’s to be strengthened, particularly by reinstating the countries’ right to use environmental concerns as one of the reasons for banning GM crop cultivation, and by limiting the central role that the EU ministers wanted to offer to biotech companies in the banning process.

- A new study published in the Journal of Organic Systems on Friday finds further correlation between the rates of chronic diseases in the US and use of the herbicide...
glysophate. The study was led by Dr. Nancy Swanson and Andre Leu, President of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). The study links the increase in the use of these herbicides to increases in diseases such as diabetes, obesity, lipoprotein metabolism disorder, Alzheimer’s, senile dementia, Parkinson’s, multiple sclerosis and autism.

- November 5, 2014 was designated as GMO Awareness Day for public schools in the Hopkins, Minneapolis, Orono, Shakopee and Westonka districts. Lunches were served without any genetically modified ingredients and students and family were given information informing them about genetically modified foods.

- On November 6, 2014, Sustainable Pulse reported that the GMO Moratorium was passed in Maui with a total of 50.2% of the vote. This would halt the cultivation of GMO’s until studies can be conducted to ascertain the environment impact of GMO cultivation.

- On November 4, 2014, residents of Humboldt County voted on a proposition to ban the cultivation of GM crops. The ban passed by a vote of 60% to 40%. This makes Humboldt County the third county in California to ban the cultivation of GM crops.

- This week Member of Parliament and Head of the Research Institute on Human Rights, Ayten Mustafayeva, called for legislation labeling or even banning products containing GMO’s. She also called for punishments to be created not only for the producers of these products but for those who import them into the country. The MP said that work is being done to strengthen provisions in a GMO law to this effect.

- Monsanto and Dow AgroSciences are looking at legal options in the wake of passage of a moratorium on genetically engineered crops by voters in Maui County, Hawaii.

- USDA said it certified four processing plants in China’s Shandong Province to cook and ship poultry meat to U.S. customers, the latest step in a decade-old proposal. The consumer group Food and Water Watch faulted the Food Safety and Inspection Service for an “ill-conceived decision” and said “there have been scores of food safety scandals in China.

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**Insurance/Healthcare**

- Healthcare providers need to remain diligent as technology continues to evolve, ensuring that they are taking the proper steps to mitigate the risk of a health data breach. This often involves working with third-parties, and, according to recent research, some of those relationships could potentially lead to security issues.

- Government websites that helped individuals find AIDS-related medical services reportedly lacked health data encryption.

- American consumers have deep enough concerns about the privacy and security of electronic medical records that some even withheld information from care providers. Perhaps even more telling: That’s according to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT. After surveying more than 2,000 consumers, ONC officials found that about three-quarters of them were either very or somewhat concerned over the privacy and security of their medical records. What’s more, 10 percent of respondents withheld information from their healthcare provider who used an electronic health record.

- Crash for cash scams have hit a new peak and add £400million to the cost of UK motorists’ premiums, Aviva has reported, identifying Birmingham, Luton, and North London as hotspots. Road traffic accidents deliberately caused in order to claim whiplash compensation are now at record levels, Britain’s largest insurer has warned. It wants short-term whiplash payments to be banned to remove the financial incentive for fraud.
• British fraud experts have uncovered “significant” links between insurance fraudsters and terrorist groups, but wider publicity of the issue by the industry is being prevented amid police concerns. Market views on instances of insurance fraud funding terrorism were aired following a speech by Metropolitan Police commissioner Mark Rowley at the British Bankers’ Association conference in late September, in which he claimed “a third of counter-terrorism policing,” as measured by arrests, was fraud-related. In particular, Rowley linked false claims on home and motor insurance policies to the travel of radicalised British Muslims to join the Islamic State movement in Syria and Iraq.

• It should come as no surprise that healthcare security is increasingly becoming a major issue, especially as technology continues to evolve. However, if a recent survey is any indication, those security concerns are creating barriers to the adoption of cloud technology, mobility, and big data. Dell recently released the results of its Global Technology Adoption Index (GTAI), which surveyed more than 2,000 global organizations. Cloud technology, mobility, and big data are all facing barriers in numerous industries because of security concerns, according to the GTAI.

• The US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG) will bring a greater focus to its scrutiny of certain areas of HIPAA compliance, according to the OIG 2015 work plan.

• As technology continues to evolve, and more healthcare providers implement mobile device policies, it is important that patient privacy still remains a top priority. However, certain mobile applications are bringing that security into question.

• 68 percent of all healthcare data breaches since 2010 are due to device theft or loss, according to the 2014 Healthcare Breach Report from Bitglass. Despite the recent headlines of hacker attacks to hospitals, only 23 percent of healthcare data breaches were a result of cybercriminals compromising networks and exfiltrating data.

• The US healthcare industry has embraced its digital future — and that future is dependent on the Internet. The passage and implementation of recent legislation has mandated the adoption of connected healthcare technology as a way to reduce costs, increase patient privacy, and improve care collaboration and quality of healthcare services. Healthcare providers are introducing Internet-enabled patient monitoring devices that transmit readings of vital signs, send alerts if readings are abnormal, enable communication between patients and their physicians or nurses and make patients’ private electronic health records available on their physicians’ tablets or smartphones wherever they are. But with all this data comes risks.

• A Stillwater-based dental company has agreed to pay more than $5 million in civil claims stemming from allegations that it submitted false Medicaid claims. Ocean Dental PC, which operates 28 clinics in seven states, did not admit any liability in the settlement, although one of its former dentists was sentenced to prison in 2012 after pleading guilty to health care fraud. The settlement resolves allegations that Ocean Dental violated the False Claims Act by submitting false Medicaid claims for dental work that was never performed or billed at a higher rate than allowed.

• A settlement finalized this past week in a class action lawsuit filed in 1997 against Tenet Healthcare for a privacy breach involving thousands of patients’ paper records offers important lessons for healthcare providers today. One key takeaway from the settlement is that while most healthcare organizations have been moving to safeguard electronic health records and other digital platforms, millions of paper records remain in their institutions that need proper safeguarding. Those paper records contain patients’ protected health information, including those from closed facilities and in storage.

• California Attorney General Kamala Harris released a report showing that the majority of health data breaches in California last year were a result of lost or stolen hardware, not hacking.