



CYBERSECURITY

[Hackers Tamper with Trademark Applications and Registrations in USPTO System](#)

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) announced last week that it has discovered unauthorized users have attempted to hack into its online trademark system to attempt to make unauthorized changes to active trademark applications and registrations. They have also tried to register marks owned by others on third-party brand registries. [Read more](#)

DATA BREACH

[New Ethics Guidance for Lawyers from the American Bar Association \(ABA\) Regarding Data Breaches and Cyber-attacks](#)

We all know data breaches can impact all of us, regardless of whether we are a Fortune 500 company or a small business. Lawyers, of course, are not immune from data attacks. Recent [guidance](#) from the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility illustrates how critical it is for both lawyers and law firms to be aware of cybersecurity issues and accompanying ethical considerations. [Read more](#)

[Federal Legislation Enables Consumers to Obtain Security Freezes on Credit Reports Free of Charge](#)

Federal legislation recently took effect that prohibits consumer reporting agencies from charging a fee to place or remove (lift) a security freeze on a consumer credit report in response to a consumer request. The Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act ("the Act") was passed on May 24, 2018. The Act includes important updates to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) that may in turn affect the information that businesses provide to customers or clients in response to a data breach or similar security incident. [Read more](#)

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[Data Breach Announced by CMS — Approximately 75,000 Individuals' Files Affected](#)

Cyber-attacks on health care data are becoming increasingly common and costly, and last week the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) that it had suffered a data breach. The breach was detected in the Direct Enrollment pathway, which allows agents and brokers to assist consumers with applications in the federally facilitated ACA exchange. The breach affected approximately 75,000 individuals' files. CMS reported that it detected an anomaly in the system on October 13, 2018, and three days later it declared a breach. CMS also reported that it has taken steps to investigate the breach, disable this portion of the portal, and notify other federal authorities. [Read more](#)

NEW + NOW

[Privacy and Security Employee Education Efforts](#)

As more and more companies become victim to data loss through phishing campaigns and insider threats, and the loss of data becomes riskier, companies are struggling to address the risks through employee education efforts. Note that we call it “education” and not “training.” No one likes training, so be mindful of how you are presenting an education campaign to your employees. [Read more](#)

DRONES

[GE Announces Beyond Visual Line of Sight Drone Flights Using Radar](#)

Avitas Systems, a General Electric (GE) venture, received Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval to fly a large unmanned aerial system (UAS or drone) beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) of the operator in Loving County, Texas. The FAA's authorization allows Avitas Systems to fly UAS over 55 pounds at low altitudes without a visual observer (BVLOS) for industrial inspections. This is the first FAA-approved civil use of BVLOS with radar. The extended range of BVLOS operations allows for safer and more efficient monitoring of critical industrial infrastructure, such as well pads separated by rough terrain in the Permian Basin of West Texas. Additionally, these BVLOS operations allow for quicker turn-around of inspection data which means cost efficiencies and faster facility repairs. [Read more](#)

PRIVACY TIP #162

[Cybersecurity Help for Small Businesses](#)

Small businesses are frequently targeted by hackers because they often do not have the resources to stay abreast of new schemes, or install the latest technology or security solutions. Small businesses have historically struggled with data security, so any help is always welcome. [Read more](#)

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