



CYBERSECURITY

[Schneider Electric USBs Infected with Malware](#)

Schneider Electric recently issued a consumer warning that it mistakenly shipped to its customers USB drives that were infected with malware. Schneider Electric stated in its alert that “Schneider Electric has determined that some USB removable media shipped with [two products] were contaminated with malware during manufacturing by one of our suppliers.” [Read more](#)

HIPAA

[HHS Issues Limited Waiver of HIPAA Sanctions Following Hurricane Florence](#)

As Hurricane Florence was making landfall, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar issued HIPAA guidance that outlined when hospitals in declared state of emergency areas can qualify for a waiver of certain provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule, including fines and penalties.

According to the guidance, “the HIPAA Privacy Rule allows patient information to be shared to assist in disaster relief efforts, and to assist patients in receiving the care they need....while the HIPAA Privacy Rule is not suspended during a public health or other emergency, the Secretary of HHS may waive certain provisions of the Privacy Rule under the Project Bioshield Act of 2004...and section 1145(b) of the Social Security Act.” [Read more](#)

DATA PRIVACY

[The Importance of Protecting the Last Four Digits of Your Social Security Number](#)

We all know that it is important to protect our Social Security number. But sometimes companies still try to use the last four digits of our Social Security numbers as identifiers or to verify identity in some way. The use of Social Security numbers began in 1936, long before

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computers, the internet, and identity theft were on anyone's radar screen. They started out being assigned geographically by region. So if you had a list of all the first three numbers of assigned Social Security numbers, you could tell whether someone was born in Rhode Island (with a low number) or in California (with a higher number). The middle two numbers represent a group number (01-99) so the middle two digits and the last four digits are random. To date, more than 453.7 million Social Security numbers have been issued by the federal government. [Read more](#)

DATA BREACH

[Ohio Passes Law Providing Safe Harbor for Businesses Suffering Data Breach](#)

The Ohio Legislature recently passed S.B. 220 (the Act), which gives businesses that suffer a data breach an affirmative defense against tort claims brought in class action suits. The Act does not require minimum standards, and allows businesses to adopt a framework that is appropriate for the business. However the adoption and maintenance of the framework will be scrutinized if a business asserts the affirmative defense. [Read more](#)

[Yahoo! Data Breach Estimated to Cost Successor Company Net \\$47 Million](#)

Altaba Inc., the successor company of Yahoo Inc., recently noted in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that after its settlement of consumer and shareholder suits relating to Yahoo's data breach that affected all three million of its users, it will have paid a net \$47 million in expenses. [Read more](#)

ENFORCEMENT + LITIGATION

[Choice Hotels Sued for Failing to Provide Information about Accessibility to Users](#)

Choice Hotels International Inc., was recently sued for failing to provide disabled users with information about its rooms' and grounds' accessibility. The suit, referencing the Comfort Inn in Gainesville, Florida, states that the hotel's online reservation system fails to provide users with information about the accessible features for those using wheelchairs or canes. [Read more](#)

DRONES

[FAA's LAANC: Last Stop, Central North U.S.](#)

As of last week, the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) is nationwide. We [wrote](#) about the FAA's initiation of LAANC in April, with incremental deployment at air traffic facilities and airports, and the final deployment on September 13. That last deployment occurred in the Central North region of the U.S. Now, LAANC has expanded to 288 air traffic control facilities and 470 airports across the country. Drone pilots using LAANC can receive an authorization to fly in certain restricted airspace in near real-time (as opposed to completing an application through the FAA's DroneZone and obtaining a waiver for the operation). This is a huge step for the safe and efficient deployment of drones in the national airspace. [Read more](#)

[Drone Crashes in San Francisco During Building Inspection](#)

While inspecting a cracked window at San Francisco's tilting Millennium Tower, a drone fell from the sky, just missing pedestrians below. The Millennium Tower's homeowners association hired a drone pilot to take photos of a cracked window. However, during the aerial inspection, the drone lost its satellite signal. Once the signal was lost, the drone was no longer under the pilot's control. The drone drifted and hit another building across the street from the Millennium Tower. The drone crashed on the sidewalk below just missing several pedestrians walking by. The homeowners association attorney said, "We're trying to evaluate whether the tilting [of the building] has anything to do with [the cracked window] but we're also looking at all other aspects of it, structural, whether it's part of the window assembly, the manufacturing process, the installation process." The hope is that the drone footage (obtained before it crashed) will help experts determine what is causing the window to crack. The drone's pilot had to launch the drone from three different locations due to interference with his GPS and satellite signals. Congested cities are often difficult to get a signal, due to many high-rise buildings like the Millennium Tower. This is something to consider when conducting drone operations in cities. [Read more](#)

[Why Utility Companies Love Drones](#)

It's true. Utility and power companies really love using drones. While it seems that drones are everywhere now, with trillions of dollars' worth of industrial infrastructure aging across the country, worker safety and terrorism concerns, climate change putting strain on power grids, manufacturing facilities and oil and gas production, drones offer a cheaper and more effective way of monitoring infrastructure. Drones are being used to spot faults or overgrown foliage in transmission and

distribution lines across the U.S. Monitoring hot, dry areas (such as Northern California) is becoming increasingly important –one corporation may owe as much as \$17.3 billion in liabilities from the 2017 fires in wine country. Drones were also used to restore power lines in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria shut off nearly 80 percent of the island's electricity. [Read more](#)

PRIVACY TIP #157

[Protect Yourself From Utility Scams](#)

The recent tragedy with gas customers in Massachusetts has everyone focused on their utilities. The issue has become so widespread, that the Federal Trade Commission has been receiving complaints and has issued a Consumer Information notification about the scam. This week's tip addresses some scams to watch for and offers preventative suggestions. [Read more](#)

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