

Robinson+Cole

Data Privacy + Security Insider

Leveraging Knowledge to Manage Your Data Risks



CYBERSECURITY

[IRS Issues Warning of “Dangerous W2 Phishing Scam”](#)

We always see a surge in W2 email phishing schemes this time of year, as it is tax time, and many individuals are filing their tax returns in order to get a quick refund. So are criminals and cyber-hackers. Well, scammers are in full force, and we have seen a surge in W2 phishing schemes. It is so bad, that the IRS has issued another warning to companies to beware of the scheme. [Read more](#)

[Identity Theft and Credit Card Fraud Highest Ever in 2016](#)

A study released by Javelin Strategy & Research has concluded that the number of identity fraud cases in 2016 rose 16 percent from 2015, costing victims \$16 billion in losses. This includes both identity theft and credit card fraud. It estimates that 15.4 million individuals in the U.S. were victimized by fraud in 2016, which is 2 million more than 2015. [Read more](#)

ENFORCEMENT + LITIGATION

[VIZIO Pays \\$2.2 Million for Viewing Histories on 11 Million Smart Televisions](#)

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a press release on February 6, 2017, stating that it and the State of New Jersey have settled with VIZIO for \$2.2 million for claims that VIZIO installed software on its smart TVs to collect viewing data of 11 million consumers without their knowledge or consent. According to the press release, VIZIO is “one of the world’s largest manufacturers and sellers of internet-connected ‘smart’ televisions.” [Read more](#)

DRONES

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The Story Behind the Swarming Drones at Super Bowl LI

If you were one of the 111 million viewers to watch Super Bowl LI, you may have seen the half-time show which featured not only a performance by Lady Gaga, but over 300 swarming drones performing an intricate light show. However, because of Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Part 107 small unmanned aircraft system (UAS) rule, the drone display was pre-recorded. The FAA deemed more than 34 miles surrounding the stadium a no-drone zone between 4:00 p.m. and midnight on game day. No exceptions, even for Lady Gaga. [Read more](#)

PRIVACY TIP #73

"Can you hear me?" Scam

This scam really makes me mad—especially for some of the most vulnerable in our society, including the elderly.

This scam starts when your phone rings and the person on the other end says "Can you hear me?" Being the nice folks that we are, we say "Yes!" Only when you say "Yes," they are recording your voice and then using that voice recording to confirm authorizations to change accounts or place charges on one of your accounts. According to law enforcement, the calls are usually about vacation packages, cruises, warranties and other big ticket items. I got one last week saying the warranty on my car was expiring. When they asked "Can you hear me?" I asked "Who is this?" When they said "This is about the warranty on your car. It is expiring." I said "I am on the do-not-call list and you are in violation of the TCPA." They hung up without a "yes."

Some say biometrics, such as voice recordings and fingerprints, are becoming state of the art in authentication instead of the traditional asking for your pet's name and mother's maiden name. Anyone can figure those pieces of information out. But as authentication methods change, the criminals who are trying to commit fraud are figuring out how to get around it, like with this scam. Now they have a recording of your voice saying "Yes!" that they can use at will.

Not everyone is as paranoid as I am about data privacy and security. But the ones I am most concerned about are seniors who are home during the day getting these calls and saying "yes" when the person on the other phone ask if they can hear them. Those are the ones I am most concerned about.

Please educate your friends and family about this scam.



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