



CYBERSECURITY

[FBI Warning: Russian Hackers Attacking Routers](#)

Late last week, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) issued a warning to U.S. consumers that Russian hackers (dubbed Sofacy and a/k/a Fancy Brear and APT28, and believed to be backed by the Russian government) had compromised “hundreds of thousands” of home and office routers through malware known as VPNFilter in order to collect information by hijacking the devices and shutting down network traffic. VPNFilter can steal data or order routers to self-destruct. [Read more](#)

[Criminals Cashing in on GDPR Privacy Notices](#)

Over the past several weeks, as the GDPR deadline of May 25 loomed, thousands of organizations sent individuals, including U.S. citizens, notices requesting consent and opt-in to receive further communications. Riding on that wave of confusion and inundating emails, criminals have used the implementation of GDPR to their advantage by impersonating legitimate businesses, including financial firms, and sending what purport to be GDPR notices to customers. However, the notices request that consumers provide their banking information, and other personal information, which is then being used criminally. There is also the possibility of opt-in links being infected with malware and ransomware. [Read more](#)

DRONES

[Ten Drone Test Sites Expand States' Regulatory Role](#)

At test sites in 10 states –Alaska, California, Florida, Nevada, North Dakota, North Carolina, Kansas, Oklahoma, Virginia and Tennessee – the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) granted local-backed drone projects special licenses to test new ways of flying. At these test sites, drone package delivery and nighttime flights will be conducted, which are typically prohibited by the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) small unmanned aerial systems (UAS) rule (Part 107) unless a special waiver is granted. The Trump

May 31, 2018

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administration says the goal of these test site projects is to “foster a meaningful dialogue on the balance between local and national interests related to UAS integration, and provide actionable information to the U.S. DOT on expanded and universal integration of UAS into the national airspace system.”

This increased collaboration also gives state, county, and tribal governments a greater role in determining future drone regulations.

[Read more](#)

[Proposed Rule to Require Drone Registration](#)

Listed as part of the semi-annual Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, a new proposed rule will require drones registered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to display a unique identifier assigned externally on the drone. As of today, drone owners and operators are required to enclose the ID on the insides of the drone (for e.g., in the battery compartment). Acting Administrator of the FAA Daniel K. Elwell said, “We need assurances that any drone, any unmanned aircraft, operating in controlled airspace is identifiable and trackable. It’s as simple as that.” Beyond this proposed rule, calls for visible IDs on all drones are coming from the defense and security side of the national airspace sector as well as the commercial market, because they see digital, visible IDs as a path to safe beyond-visual-line-of-sight operations. We will continue to follow this, and other proposed legislation in this area, as it is introduced. [Read more](#)

[Drones Aid Police and Fire in School Threat Investigation](#)

In Belleville, Illinois, drones were used as part of a law enforcement investigation into a school threat this week. Both police and fire crews used their drones to monitor the school and to help determine whether there was a credible threat. Belleville Assistant Fire Chief J.P. Penet said, “Our job was to operate in the air and provide visual observations of the rooftops to make sure the rooftops were clear. [Both police and fire] each have identical devices. When one [was] up in the air the other [was] changing batteries and getting set and the first one comes down, the second one goes up so we can maintain constant vigilance.” Penet added that both police and fire crews have used drones in the past for locating missing persons, battling flames, water rescues and other types of emergencies. “It’s a much quicker and more responsive visualization of the aerial environment,” said Penet. [Read more](#)

[Study Shows Use of Drones by Public Safety Agencies More than Doubled](#)

Drones are becoming an everyday tool for more and more police and fire departments across the country. According to a [study](#) conducted by the Center for the Study of the Drone at New York's Bard College, the number of public safety agencies with drones has more than doubled since the end of 2016. In fact, approximately 900 police, sheriff, fire, and emergency agencies now have drones. Of those 900 agencies, the highest number of agencies using drones come from the states of Texas, California, and Wisconsin. Further, these agencies are using drones for an array of tasks. From accident scene investigations to guide-drones leading firefighters through flames, as well as for missing persons searches and hunts for murder suspects drones have multiple uses that save time, money and lives. [Read more](#)

PRIVACY TIP #141

[Teen Safe App Exposes Parents' and Teens' Information](#)

The tip this week addresses using any app that does not allow multi-factor authentication, vetting the apps that children use, and considerations for flying the "parent" helicopter a little higher. [Read more](#)

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