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CyberScoop

TUESDAY

September 27, 2016

So cybersecurity had its moment in last night's debate, albeit one that was short on anything substantive. The privacy policies for some security products seem to be anything but private. And how is IoT driving DDoS attacks to never before seen levels? This is CyberScoop for Tuesday, September 27.

CYBER CYBER CYBER CYBER CYBER: Monday's presidential debate marked the first time cybersecurity has ever been discussed in such a venue...only we didn't get that much. Not that we expected Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump to get into a dissection of the NIST framework, but outside of Clinton pointing the finger at Russia for the DNC hack (while Trump pointed the finger at "somebody sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds"), it seemed both candidates agreed the government could be better at protecting itself. Intel Security CTO Steve Grobman dropped us a line about the back-and-forth: "It's refreshing to see cybersecurity at the forefront of the national security conversation during last night's debate. In just a few years, we've seen cybersecurity go from a function of the IT back office to the Oval Office. The prominence of cybersecurity in last night's debate is tremendous progress, with the promise of further progress to come in the coming months and years."

'SECURE' DOESN'T MEAN 'PRIVATE': When we install security software, we don't expect it to be spying on us. But perhaps we should. As Shaun Waterman reports, a German testing lab has analyzed the English-

language privacy and data policies of 26 major security products — and the results should raise your eyebrows. Shaun Waterman has more.

JOIN US OCT. 18 FOR FEDTALKS!: FedTalks is the largest annual gathering of the top leaders from the tech and government IT communities. In our 6th annual gathering, over 1,200 of the most influential leaders from gov, tech, and politics will come together from across the country to discuss how technology and people can change government and our communities. REGISTER HERE.

HOW IOT IS HELPING DDOS ATTACKS: The DDoS attack that took down Brian Krebs' website shows how the attack is evolving as the Internet of Things comes online. Once a hacker has access to an IoT device, they can use bots to search the web for other similar models — some of which may be insecurely connected and already publicly viewable on the internet — before using the same exploit on numerous systems. The result is an easily acquirable and yet large traffic scale attack force that can confuse a defender because of its unique behavior and irregular IP signature. Chris Bring breaks it down even further.

DOES GPS NEED AN F-I-X?: What would happen if GPS signals were suddenly blocked or the satellites broadcasting them fell silent? The consequences would be much more severe than lost taxi drivers and bewildered tourists. The cellular phone network and the power grid would go down, for starters. As Shaun reports, the consequences would be so bad, that DHS is studying how to provide vital industries with a replacement for GPS.
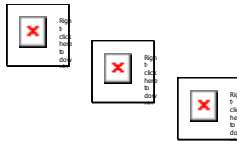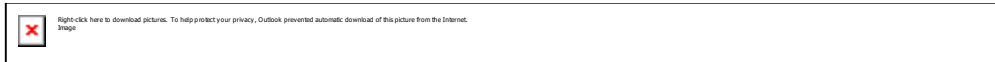
BLOCKCHAIN GETS A BOOST FROM CONGRESS: Blockchain fans are welcoming the launch of a congressional caucus dedicated to educating lawmakers about the distributed ledger technology that underpins bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. As Shaun reports, backers hope the caucus will ensure Congress treads lightly in any regulatory effort.

HAMMERING THE RISK MANAGEMENT MESSAGE: In the latest episode of our Symantec's Cyber Innovation Heroes series, Greg Touhill, now Federal CISO, then Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications at DHS, talks about what he has done to protect federal networks -- including how agencies are moving toward a risk management mindset when it comes to their cybersecurity strategy. Watch here.

TWEET OF THE DAY

We've found our hack culprit. Case closed.

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