Daily Drop (677): Albania: Telecom, OP Triangulation, US: Missile Data, Apache OfBiz ERP, Alpha Rocket, Soyuz-2.1v, Rugmi Malware, LockBit: Dena, NIBTT, LinkedIn: Ads, AU PM, CN: Military Overhaul

12-28-23

BOB BRAGG
DEC 28, 2023

Thursday, Dec 28 2023 // (IG): BB // ShadowNews // Coffee for Bob

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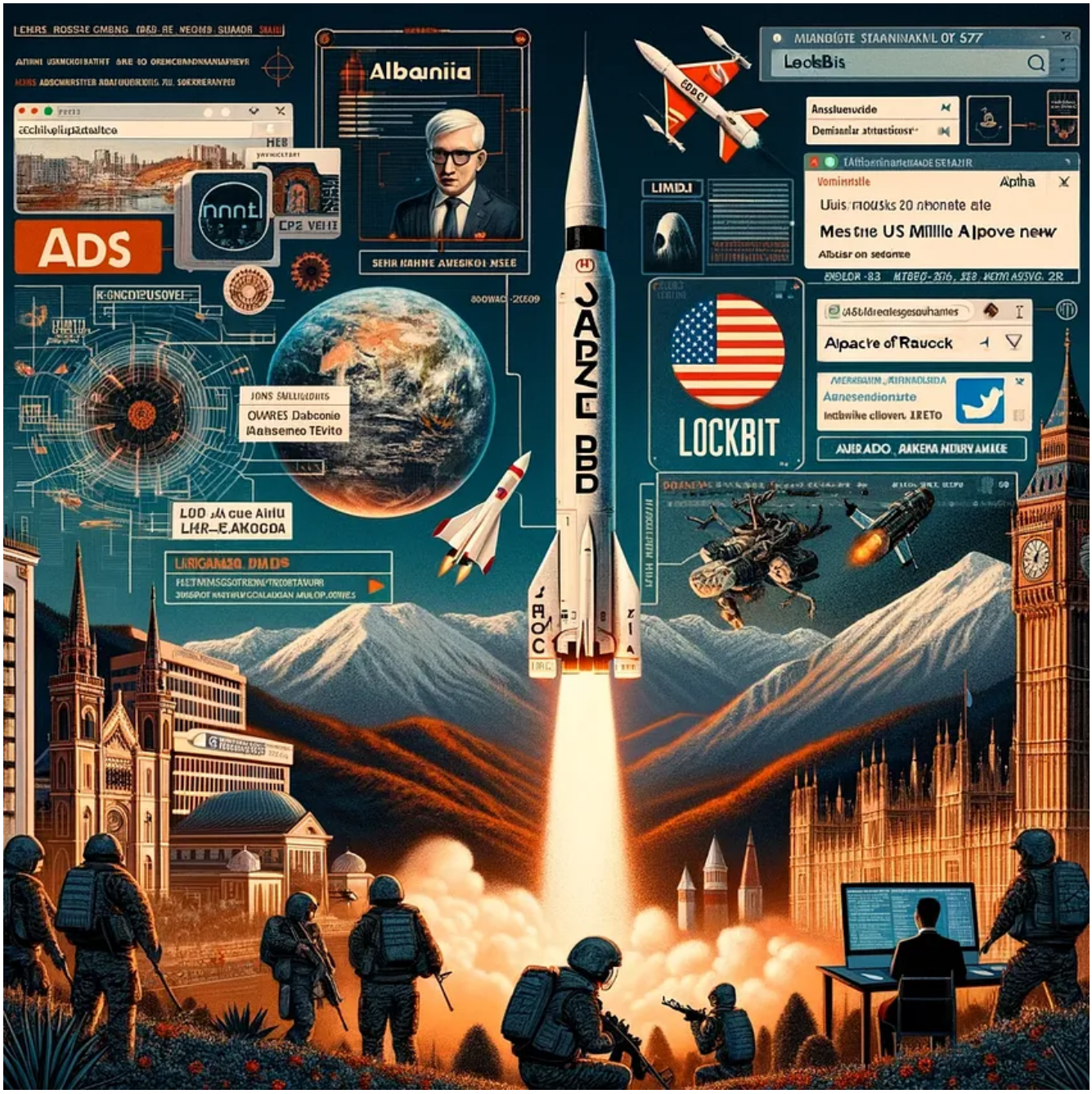


*Started adding the Proof Of Concepts (PoC) if available for mentioned CVE’s :

A Proof of Concept (PoC) is a small exercise to test a certain hypothesis or demonstrate that a potential project can be viable. It's primarily used to verify that certain concepts or theories have the potential for real-world application. The purpose of a PoC is to showcase the feasibility, functionality, and potential of a concept before proceeding to the development of the full-scale project. *

Cyberattacks Target Albania's Parliament and Telecom Sector

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): Albania's parliament and a telecom company have been hit by cyberattacks, with an Iran-linked hacker group, Homeland Justice, claiming responsibility. The attacks appear to be retaliatory, possibly linked to Albania's support of the Iranian opposition group MEK.

Analyst Comments: The cyberattacks on Albania's parliament and telecom infrastructure are indicative of the growing trend of state-linked cyber warfare used as a tool for political retaliation. The alleged connection to Iran's Homeland Justice, in response to Albania sheltering MEK members, underscores the geopolitical complexities in cyber conflict. Historical context is essential here: Albania's relationship with Iran has been notably strained following previous attacks, leading to significant diplomatic repercussions including the severance of ties and international sanctions. The unfolding situation reflects broader themes of cyber sovereignty and the challenges nations face in protecting critical infrastructure against increasingly sophisticated and politically motivated cyber threats.

FROM THE MEDIA: This week, Albania reported cyberattacks on its parliament and a local telecom company, with Iran-linked group Homeland Justice claiming responsibility. The attacks seem to be a part of a retaliatory campaign named "Destroy Durres Military Camp," targeting Albania for hosting members of the Iranian opposition group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq (MEK). Despite these claims, the actual perpetrators remain unconfirmed. This incident is part of a series of cyber confrontations between Albania and Iran, with previous attacks leading to Albania severing diplomatic relations and the U.S. imposing sanctions on Iran. The situation remains tense, with ongoing investigations and international implications.

READ THE STORY: The Record

New iPhone Spyware Attack Exploits Obscure Hardware Feature

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): Cybersecurity firm Kaspersky has identified an obscure hardware feature in iPhones that was exploited by hackers in a campaign dubbed "Operation Triangulation." The exploit involves bypassing hardware-based security to attack iPhones via iMessages with malicious attachments. This advanced technique marks one of the most sophisticated attack chains uncovered to date, raising concerns about even the most robust hardware-based protections.

Analyst Comments: This multifaceted exploit chain represents a new pinnacle of cyber attack sophistication on personal devices, highlighting the lengths to which attackers go to compromise systems. Starting from an undocumented TrueType font instruction, the exploit cleverly navigates through a series of vulnerabilities and techniques, including return/jump-oriented programming, JavaScript obfuscation, memory manipulation, and hardware-based bypasses. The comprehensive nature of these exploits — from the initial message reception to the final spyware payload execution — underscores the critical need for robust, multi-layered cybersecurity measures and the constant vigilance required in both software and hardware domains.

FROM THE MEDIA: The attack initiates with a seemingly innocuous iMessage, leading to a complex chain of exploits utilizing multiple vulnerabilities, including CVE-2023-41990, CVE-2023-32434, CVE-2023-38606, and CVE-2023-32435. The attack uses sophisticated memory manipulation, privilege escalation, and obfuscation techniques to gain deep access to the iPhone's core system functionalities. Post-exploitation, the exploit achieves root privileges and loads spyware to surveil and control the device fully. The vulnerability, now patched by Apple, allowed attackers to write data to physical addresses, circumventing hardware-based memory protection. Kaspersky's report emphasizes the sophistication of this attack chain, describing it as the most complex they've encountered, and raises concerns about advanced hardware protections being insufficient against skilled attackers. Apple, while not commenting specifically on Kaspersky's findings, has acknowledged the exploitation of this vulnerability in the past.

READ THE STORY: The Record // ARStechinica // HF

Biden Administration's Contemplation on Sharing Missile Data with China Sparks Debate

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): The Biden administration is reportedly contemplating sharing missile launch data with China, a move that's drawn criticism and concern over national and global security implications.

Analyst Comments: This consideration sparks a serious debate on the balance between transparency, diplomacy, and national security, weighing the potential benefits of mutual data exchange against the risks of empowering an adversarial nation with sensitive defense information.

FROM THE MEDIA: The proposed exchange is seen as part of a broader diplomatic strategy, yet many view it as a risky concession that could undermine the U.S.'s strategic defense capabilities against a backdrop of increasing cyber and military tensions with China. Critics argue for a more cautious and measured approach to any such data-sharing initiatives.

READ THE STORY: The Washington Times

Critical Zero-Day in Apache OfBiz ERP System Exposes Businesses to Attack

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): A new zero-day vulnerability, CVE-2023-51467, has been discovered in the Apache OfBiz ERP system, allowing attackers to bypass authentication protections. This flaw is an outcome of an incomplete fix for a previously identified vulnerability, CVE-2023-49070. Attackers can exploit this to achieve unauthorized access and potentially control over affected systems.

Analyst Comments: The emergence of Android/Xamalicious underscores a significant evolution in cyber threats, particularly in how malware camouflages itself and manipulates devices. Unlike traditional Java or ELF Android code, it utilizes the Xamarin

architecture to interpret .NET code, making it more resilient and challenging to detect. The use of social engineering techniques to gain accessibility privileges and the employment of sophisticated encryption and obfuscation methods for communication with its C2 server reveal the growing sophistication of cybercriminal tactics.

FROM THE MEDIA: McAfee's discovery of Android/Xamalicious reveals a troubling increase in the malware's ability to take full control over Android devices, leading to sensitive information theft and unauthorized financial transactions. Employing the Xamarin framework, it gains full control through dynamic payload injection and engages in various illicit activities. The malware, often disguised under innocuous app categories like health and productivity, exploits user permissions and communicates with its command and control server to perform its malicious activities. Despite efforts like McAfee's proactive measures and Google Play Protect, the malware has shown resilience and remains a significant threat. Countries most affected include the USA, Brazil, Argentina, the UK, Spain, and Germany. The incident highlights the ever-evolving nature of cyber threats and the continuous need for innovative cybersecurity defenses.

READ THE STORY: THN // PoC

Firefly's Alpha Rocket Fails to Deliver Payload into Intended Orbit

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): Firefly's fourth Alpha rocket launch from Vandenberg Space Force Base successfully lifted off but failed to deliver Lockheed Martin's payload into the intended orbit due to a second stage malfunction. The satellite entered a lower elliptical orbit and might reenter Earth's atmosphere within weeks, leading to uncertainty about the mission's outcome.

Analyst Comments: The Firefly Alpha rocket's partial failure marks a setback in the small lift launcher sector, reflecting the challenges of space launch consistency and reliability. The incident underscores the critical importance of each launch phase and the impact of malfunctions in orbital insertions. It also highlights the competitive and technological pressures in the burgeoning space launch industry, where companies like Firefly are pushing for rapid innovation and capability expansion. The failure, although a

setback, is part of the broader learning curve in the space industry, contributing to future improvements and strategies.

FROM THE MEDIA: The fourth launch of Firefly's Alpha rocket aimed to place Lockheed Martin's Electronically Steerable Antenna Demo mission into orbit. The launch proceeded without issue until the second burn of the second stage failed to deliver the payload to its precise target orbit. Firefly announced the anomaly 12 hours post-launch, noting that while initial stages went smoothly, the final orbital insertion did not meet expectations. Space Force tracking data indicated that the satellite entered a lower than intended elliptical orbit. Firefly's history with the Alpha rocket includes both successes and similar issues, emphasizing the challenges of achieving consistent orbital precision. The company plans to continue its launch schedule into 2024 and expand its capabilities.

READ THE STORY: Space Explored

Russia Launches Soyuz-2.1v with a Military Satellite from Plesetsk Cosmodrome

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): The Russian Aerospace Forces successfully launched the Soyuz-2.1v launch vehicle, carrying a military satellite from the Plesetsk cosmodrome. This follows a series of similar launches, indicating Russia's continued investment in and enhancement of its military satellite capabilities.

Analyst Comments: The Soyuz-2.1v launch signifies Russia's ongoing efforts to modernize and expand its military and space capabilities. The use of this updated Soyuz model, known for its enhanced digital control system and payload capacity, reflects an emphasis on reliability and versatility in military assets. This launch is part of a broader pattern of satellite deployments aimed at bolstering national defense and showcasing technological prowess. As space becomes an increasingly contested domain, such launches are critical for maintaining strategic advantage and operational readiness in global and extraterrestrial arenas.

FROM THE MEDIA: The Russian Defense Ministry reported the launch of the Soyuz-2.1v vehicle, carrying a military satellite, from the Plesetsk cosmodrome. This follows recent launches, including a Soyuz-2.1b vehicle in December. The Soyuz-2.1v is an advanced version of the Soyuz rocket series, featuring a digital control system for greater precision and an increased payload capacity, suitable for a variety of missions. This launch contributes to Russia's persistent efforts in space technology and defense, demonstrating the country's capabilities in deploying and operating military satellites effectively.

READ THE STORY: Oreanda News

Chinese Threat Actors Exploit Zero-Day in Barracuda's Email Security Gateways

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): Chinese hackers identified as UNC4841 exploited a new zero-day vulnerability in Barracuda's Email Security Gateway appliances, deploying backdoors in several devices. The vulnerability, traced to an open-source library, enabled arbitrary code execution via crafted Excel email attachments. Barracuda has since released a security update and remediated affected devices.

Analyst Comments: The recent exploitation of Barracuda's ESG appliances by Chinese hackers underscores the persistent threat of state-sponsored cyber activities and the critical vulnerabilities within third-party and open-source components. The attack, characterized by the deployment of sophisticated backdoors, highlights the ongoing arms race in cybersecurity between threat actors seeking to exploit zero-day vulnerabilities and organizations striving to protect their assets. The targeting of critical email security infrastructure reflects a strategic choice, given the central role email plays in organizational communications. This incident serves as a reminder of the need for continuous vigilance, timely patch management, and the inherent risks of dependencies on third-party libraries in security-critical applications.

FROM THE MEDIA: Chinese hackers have exploited a newly discovered zero-day vulnerability in Barracuda's Email Security Gateway (ESG) appliances. The attack involved arbitrary code execution through a compromised third-party library used in the

appliances and resulted in the deployment of backdoors on affected devices. Barracuda has responded with a security update to rectify the situation and has taken steps to remediate compromised appliances. The incident, part of a broader pattern of exploitation by the threat actor UNC4841, has impacted a range of private and public sector organizations across 16 countries. Despite the patch, the root vulnerability in the third-party Perl module remains unaddressed, signaling ongoing risks and the need for comprehensive security measures.

READ THE STORY: THN

Full Devastation From Cruise Missile Attack On Russian Ship Comes Into View

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): Satellite imagery reveals the extensive damage inflicted on the Russian Navy's Ropucha class landing ship Novocherkassk and surrounding infrastructure at the port of Feodosia in Crimea following a Ukrainian missile strike. The imagery indicates multiple secondary explosions and substantial damage to the vessel and nearby facilities.

Analyst Comments: The successful Ukrainian missile strike against the Novocherkassk not only signifies a substantial tactical victory but also showcases the increasing sophistication and effectiveness of Ukraine's military capabilities, particularly in precision strikes with advanced weaponry like the Storm Shadow/SCALP-EG cruise missiles. This strike is indicative of the ongoing, intense maritime conflict and the vulnerabilities of naval assets in stationary ports. The destruction of the Novocherkassk, a critical logistical vessel for the Russian Navy, underscores the strategic implications of such attacks on the broader operational capacity and morale of Russian forces. It also highlights the evolving nature of modern warfare, where satellite imagery and open-source intelligence play pivotal roles in understanding and reacting to dynamic battlefield conditions.

FROM THE MEDIA: The aftermath of the Ukrainian missile strike on the Russian Navy's Novocherkassk landing ship and the adjacent port infrastructure in Feodosia,

Crimea, was vividly captured in new satellite imagery. The images show the vessel as a burned-out hulk, with clear damage to the pier and surrounding structures, including a long white-roofed building. Secondary explosions from the strike resulted in significant debris and damage to other nearby vessels, including the training ship UTS-150. Despite Russian claims of minimal damage, the imagery confirms the extensive impact of the attack. The incident highlights the Ukrainian forces' continued use of Western-supplied stealthy air-launched cruise missiles and their strategic focus on crippling key military assets.

READ THE STORY: The War Zone

Drones, DIU, and Army Network: Defense Networks and Innovations to Watch in 2024

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): The Pentagon is focusing on less complex, more connected digital environments for 2024, with significant initiatives including the Replicator program for autonomous systems, a new phase for the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), and the Army's evolving network strategy./

Analyst Comments: The Pentagon's 2024 digital strategy reflects an acute awareness of modern warfare's trajectory, heavily leaning on technology-driven solutions. The Replicator program's focus on autonomous systems underlines the shift towards unmanned assets and AI-driven decision-making, potentially redefining mission execution and strategy. The DIU's new phase is expected to continue bridging the gap between Silicon Valley's innovations and military applications, ensuring the U.S. stays at the forefront of defense technology. Meanwhile, the Army's network strategy evolution suggests a move towards more resilient, adaptable, and faster communication systems, essential in the age of information and electronic warfare. These initiatives collectively indicate a robust approach to maintaining a technological edge, crucial for future strategic and tactical flexibility.

FROM THE MEDIA: The Pentagon's 2024 digital agenda is setting a course for a more integrated, innovative, and autonomous military environment. The Replicator program is

a standout initiative, aiming to expand the military's autonomous capabilities, possibly including drones and unmanned vehicles, to ensure rapid, efficient, and smarter mission outcomes. The Defense Innovation Unit is entering a new phase, building on its successes in streamlining tech adoption in military ranks, focusing on areas like cyber, AI, and space technologies. The Army's network strategy is also getting an overhaul, aiming to create a more robust, flexible, and secure digital backbone, supporting soldiers with real-time data and connectivity, crucial for modern combat scenarios. These concerted efforts signify a recognition of the increasing role of interconnected and smart technologies in defense strategies.

READ THE STORY: Breaking Defense

FBI Director Highlights China's AI-Powered Espionage

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): FBI Director Christopher Wray recently exposed the vast scope of China's AI-driven data theft operations, indicating significant global security implications. This sophisticated network targets sensitive information worldwide, aiming to enhance China's economic, military, and technological dominance.

Analyst Comments: Wray's disclosure aligns with broader concerns about the misuse of AI in espionage. The scale of these operations underscores the strategic importance of AI in international intelligence and necessitates robust countermeasures and regulatory frameworks. The revelation calls for an international response to address and mitigate these emerging threats.

FROM THE MEDIA: According to reports, Chinese intelligence uses AI to conduct large-scale data theft, compromising crucial military and commercial data globally. This development has led to a consensus on the need for stringent AI regulations and security measures. As China advances in AI, the international community is urged to collaborate on intelligence sharing and develop advanced cybersecurity technologies to neutralize these sophisticated threats

READ THE STORY: ET

Rugmi Malware Loader: A Rising Threat in Cybersecurity Landscape

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): The Rugmi malware loader is rapidly gaining traction among cybercriminals, enabling the distribution of various information stealers. With daily detections surging into the hundreds, the malware exploits a range of tactics, including malvertising and fake software updates, to propagate. Cybersecurity firms are tracking this emerging threat, which is being offered as a service in the cybercrime underworld, raising concerns over the accessibility of sophisticated malware tools.

Analyst Comments: The emergence of the Rugmi malware loader represents a significant development in the cyber threat landscape, demonstrating the continuous evolution of malware delivery mechanisms. Its capability to distribute various established information stealers underscores the modular and flexible nature of modern malware. The use of malware-as-a-service (MaaS) models, as seen with Lumma Stealer and others, further indicates a shift towards commoditization in the cybercrime ecosystem, lowering the barrier for entry and potentially increasing the frequency and sophistication of attacks. The reliance on Discord's CDN and other unconventional dissemination methods highlights the adaptive strategies employed by cybercriminals to bypass traditional security measures. The rise of Rugmi and similar loaders necessitates a proactive and dynamic approach to cybersecurity, emphasizing the importance of threat intelligence, robust defense mechanisms, and awareness of the latest cyber threat tactics.

FROM THE MEDIA: The Rugmi malware loader is increasingly being used to deliver a variety of information stealers, showing a notable spike in detections recently. This loader operates by downloading and executing encrypted payloads, adapting various methods to avoid detection and maximize spread. Malware, once the domain of more technically skilled threat actors, is now accessible through MaaS models, enabling a broader range of cybercriminals to conduct sophisticated attacks. The most concerning aspect is the loader's distribution methods, which include exploiting Discord's CDN and other deceptive tactics, highlighting the need for increased vigilance and updated security

measures across all sectors. As the threat landscape evolves, so must the strategies to combat these malicious actors.

READ THE STORY: THN

LockBit Ransomware Targets German Energy Agency Dena: A Cybersecurity Alert

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): The German Energy Agency Dena has reportedly become a victim of the LockBit ransomware group, with the threat actors issuing an ultimatum to release the agency's compromised data. The specifics of the attack remain unclear as official confirmations are pending. This incident is part of a series of aggressive campaigns by LockBit, reflecting the persistent and evolving threat posed by ransomware groups globally.

Analyst Comments: The alleged cyberattack on Dena by LockBit ransomware is significant, reflecting the continued targeting of critical infrastructure by sophisticated cybercriminal groups. LockBit's operations, including their use of a dark web portal for communications and recruitment, exemplify the structured and business-like approach of modern ransomware gangs. Their strategy to publish victim data as a means of leverage is a common tactic in ransomware attacks, aiming to coerce victims into paying the ransom. As the energy sector remains a vital part of any nation's infrastructure, such attacks underscore the importance of robust cybersecurity measures and the need for constant vigilance against these evolving threats.

FROM THE MEDIA: Dena, the German Energy Agency, is allegedly the latest victim of the LockBit ransomware group, which has threatened to release the agency's data if their demands are not met. The attack was disclosed through the group's dark web platform, part of their standard operating procedure. LockBit, known for its broad attacks and claims of ethical hacking, continues to target a wide array of sectors, including energy, underscoring the growing threat of ransomware to critical infrastructure worldwide. The situation remains dynamic, with the cybersecurity community closely monitoring developments and awaiting official responses from the affected entities.

READ THE STORY: The Cyber Express

Trinidad and Tobago's National Insurance Board Suffers Ransomware Disruption

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): Trinidad and Tobago's National Insurance Board (NIBTT), a key social security agency, was hit by a ransomware attack, significantly disrupting its operations and services. This cyber incident is part of a broader trend of ransomware attacks targeting Caribbean island nations, highlighting the escalating cyber threats to critical government infrastructure in the region.

Analyst Comments: The ransomware attack on Trinidad and Tobago's NIBTT reflects the growing vulnerability of public sector entities in small island nations to sophisticated cyber threats. Given the NIBTT's role in providing vital social security services to a large portion of the population, this attack not only disrupts government operations but also directly affects the livelihood and well-being of citizens. The repeated incidents in Caribbean nations emphasize the need for stronger cybersecurity measures and international cooperation to mitigate these risks. As ransomware gangs increasingly target entities with weaker cyber defenses, the importance of robust security protocols, incident response strategies, and awareness among government and citizens becomes paramount.

FROM THE MEDIA: Trinidad and Tobago's National Insurance Board (NIBTT) reported a ransomware attack that forced the closure of its offices and likely disrupted services for the remainder of the year. The attack, occurring shortly after Christmas, has led to an ongoing assessment of systems and a concerted effort to restore operations and secure data integrity. This incident is part of a wider pattern of cyber assaults across the Caribbean, with several nations experiencing similar disruptions. As the country works with its Cyber Security Incident Response Team and external partners towards resolution, the broader implications for cybersecurity infrastructure and preparedness in the region are brought into sharp focus.

READ THE STORY: The Record

LinkedIn Sees Surge in Ad Demand Amid Market Shifts

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): LinkedIn's advertising prices have significantly increased due to higher market demand, partly attributed to advertisers reallocating their budgets away from Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter). The platform's annual ad revenues have risen, with further growth expected, as it benefits from its targeted advertising capabilities and broader user engagement beyond job hunting.

Analyst Comments: The shift in digital advertising dynamics reflects the evolving landscape of social media platforms and their influence on marketing strategies. LinkedIn's rise in ad demand and prices is not only a testament to its growing user base and content engagement but also its ability to provide targeted advertising based on detailed professional data. The trend indicates a more strategic approach by brands to invest in platforms that align with their audience and values, especially in a post-pandemic world where professional and digital interactions have intensified. As LinkedIn continues to expand its advertising capabilities and explore new services, it's becoming a more prominent player in the competitive digital advertising market.

FROM THE MEDIA: LinkedIn's ad prices are on the rise as advertisers increasingly move away from platforms like Elon Musk's X, driving up demand on the professional networking site. With nearly $4bn in annual advertising revenues and an anticipated growth, LinkedIn is benefiting from its enhanced targeting capabilities and a shift towards more content-driven engagement. Despite still being smaller compared to giants like Google and Meta, LinkedIn's unique positioning and data-rich environment offer valuable opportunities for advertisers, especially in the B2B sector. The increased costs reflect this growing demand and the platform's evolving role in the digital advertising ecosystem.

READ THE STORY: FT // Proxy

Australia Grapples with Cybersecurity Amid Alleged Attacks on PM's Website

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): Australia's cybersecurity framework faces a critical test as the Prime Minister's website becomes the alleged target of a cyberattack by Lulz Security Indonesia. While the veracity of the claims remains uncertain, the incident coincides with Australia's rollout of a significant cybersecurity strategy, emphasizing the persistent and evolving digital threats the nation faces.

Analyst Comments: The purported cyberattack on Australia's Prime Minister's website by Lulz Security Indonesia highlights a critical juncture in the nation's cybersecurity posture. The timing, coinciding with the implementation of a comprehensive cybersecurity plan, underscores the challenges nations face against hacktivist groups and cybercriminals. While the evidence provided by the group is debated among experts, the incident reflects the importance of robust and resilient cyber defenses, especially for national government entities. The Australian government's commitment to enhancing cybersecurity through substantial investments and strategic initiatives is a testament to recognizing the dual nature of cyberspace as both a threat and an opportunity.

FROM THE MEDIA: The Australian Prime Minister's website is allegedly the latest target of a cyberattack claimed by Lulz Security Indonesia. While the authenticity of the attack is questioned due to lack of substantial evidence, the incident has raised alarms within Australia's cybersecurity community. This comes as Australia implements a transformative cybersecurity strategy, emphasizing the urgency and significance of bolstering digital defenses across the public and private sectors. The nation's strategic response includes substantial financial commitment and innovative proposals to mitigate cyber threats and enhance overall cyber resilience, reflecting a comprehensive approach to securing the digital frontier against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats.

READ THE STORY: The Cyber Express

Items of interest

China's Military Overhaul: Top Defense Executives Removed Amid Anti-Corruption Drive

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): China has ousted three senior leaders from top defense state-owned enterprises from the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference amid President Xi Jinping's extensive military reform and anti-corruption campaign. This move reflects the tightening control over the armed forces and aims to enhance combat readiness and party discipline within the military ranks.

Analyst Comments: The removal of top executives from China's defense companies signifies a deepening of President Xi Jinping's campaign to reform and consolidate control over the military. This step is part of a broader strategy to rectify corruption and inefficiency within military procurement and ensure the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) combat readiness amid growing international tensions. Xi's approach of integrating military-industrial expertise into senior party ranks highlights a commitment to 'military-civil fusion,' emphasizing the strategic importance of advanced technologies in modern warfare. The campaign's extension into 2024 indicates a continued focus on purifying and strengthening the military's operational capabilities and governance.

FROM THE MEDIA: In a significant shake-up within China's military hierarchy, three top defense executives have been removed from a key political advisory body, marking an escalation in President Xi Jinping's extensive military overhaul. This move aligns with a broader crackdown on corruption and inefficiency, reflecting an effort to centralize control and enhance the military's effectiveness. As Xi Jinping continues to emphasize the importance of reunification with Taiwan and the PLA's modernization, these changes are critical in shaping the future of China's military strategy and governance. The unfolding developments underscore the importance of internal military discipline and integrity in China's pursuit of becoming a leading global military power.

READ THE STORY: FT // Proxy

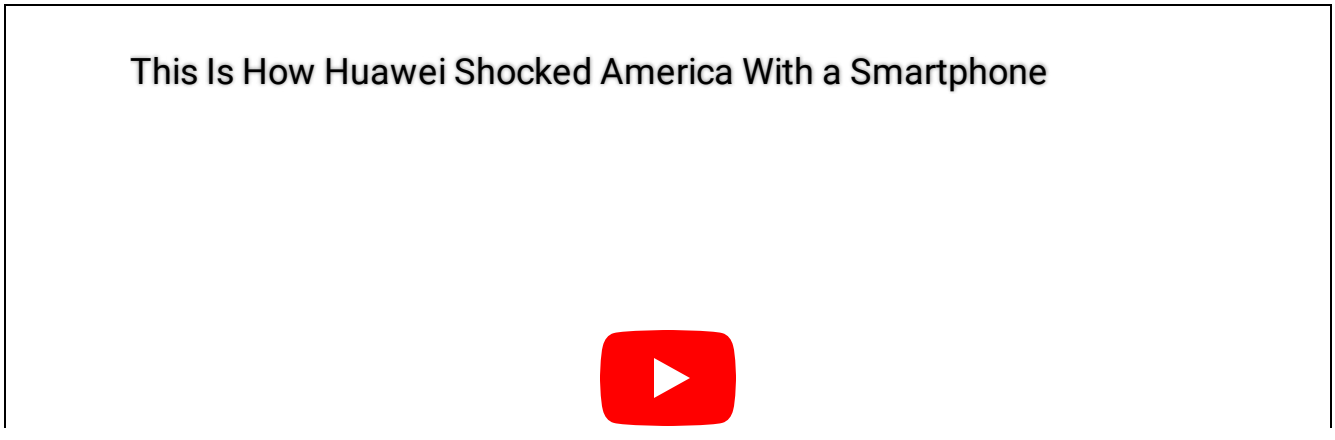
Near Peer: China (Understanding the Chinese Military) (Video)

FROM THE MEDIA: This film examines the Chinese military. Subject matter experts discuss Chinese history, current affairs, and military doctrine. Topics range from Mao, to

the PLA, to current advances in military technologies. “Near Peer: China” is the first film in a four-part series exploring America’s global competitors.

This Is How Huawei Shocked America With a Smartphone (Video)

FROM THE MEDIA: President Xi Jinping’s November meeting with President Joe Biden at the APEC summit in San Francisco came amid simmering tensions between China and the US. Technology has been at the heart of those strains, particularly Washington’s efforts to restrict Chinese access to key semiconductor innovations.



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