

Summary of Today's News

SKY

WhatsApp urges users to act after confirming cyber surveillance attack

Cyber attackers were able to install spyware on WhatsApp by exploiting a major vulnerability in the app, the company has confirmed.

Dozens of WhatsApp users including human rights organisations and a UK based lawyer may have been targeted in the attack.

"NSO would not, or could not, use its technology in its own right to target any person or organisation, including this individual (the UK lawyer)." What does the attack look like? The attack would allow the hacker to take over the mobile phone operating system.

A Citizen Lab researcher said: "There's nothing a user could have done here, short of not having the app." When did this happen? WhatsApp said the attack carried the hallmarks of a private company reportedly that works with governments to deliver spyware that takes over the functions of mobile phone operating systems.

It's not known who carried out the attack for sure, but the spyware appears to have been made by the NSO Group. NSO is an Israeli cybersecurity and intelligence company.

Suicide, drug abuse and alcoholism linked to more middle-aged deaths than heart disease

One of the world's leading economists has warned of a rise of "deaths of despair" in Britain, revealing that suicide, drug abuse and alcoholism are now claiming more middle-aged lives than heart disease.

Sir Angus Deaton, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, told Sky News that there is a risk the UK will follow in America's footsteps and faces a sharp increase in self-inflicted deaths as people deal with increasing economic and socially isolation.

He says that among Britons aged 45 -54 the number of deaths of despair per 100,000 people has risen from just over 20 in 1993 to 43 in 2017. So for both men and women between 45 and 54 the number of deaths of despair is now more than the number of people dying from heart disease." Indeed, thanks in part to this trend the overall death rate for middle-aged people, which fell throughout the 90s and early 2000s, has begun to rise in the past five years.

This makes sense: these are places which have been left behind." He points out that because the UK has a national health service and tends to have fewer opioid prescriptions than in the US, the problems with deaths of despair are likely to remain lower than in America.

My father had everything - and then he took his own life

A new study says "deaths of despair" among middle-aged Britons have more than doubled in the last 25 years.

Paul McGregor's dad died by suicide 10 years ago after seemingly having a "perfect" life.

It was a suicide that shocked everyone who knew him, and for me, it was quite frankly the worst day of my life. Six months before my dad's suicide everything changed.

A few days later he attempted suicide for the first time. Struggling to deal with it personally I bottled it up.

I buried the pain that came with his suicide, the grief I was struggling with, and hoped that it would go away.

As men, we're typically conditioned to feel that vulnerability is weakness. That any emotional pain we're going through needs to be dealt with, it can't be ignored.

Mental health affects everyone, we all have it, and normalising the conversation around it will help those suffering in silence.

Simply put, the biggest threat to my life as a 29-year-old male is myself - my mental health, suicide.

Cabinet to discuss whether to axe Brexit talks with Labour

Theresa May and her bitterly divided cabinet are meeting to decide whether to axe cross-party Brexit talks with Labour that have failed to achieve a breakthrough in six weeks.

And a group of former cabinet ministers and senior Tories have written to the PM claiming she will split the party if she strikes a deal with Labour to keep the UK in a customs union with the EU. Downing Street sources said the cabinet would hold a "substantial discussion" on whether to abandon the cross-party talks and many MPs are predicting they will be called off. We have four sets of adverts, they have 36 ad streams." Responding to the criticism, Mr Corbyn told his MPs: "I understand the need for a clear message.

Mr Watson told an audience of Labour MPs and party grandees: "Had John still been with us he would have provided a strong counter narrative to the anti-EU sentiment that set in and festered for the two decades leading up to the 2016 referendum.

Cruise passengers killed as sightseeing planes collide in mid-air in Alaska

At least four people have been killed and another two are missing after two sightseeing seaplanes collided in mid-air in southeast Alaska.

Eleven people were inside a single-engine de Havilland Otter DHC-3 operated by Taquan Air when it went down as it returned from Misty Fjords National Monument.

First of its kind autism centre aims to dramatically cut diagnosis waiting time

The UK's first independent purpose-built autism centre has opened, with the aim of dramatically reducing the waiting time for a diagnosis.

Abbie, who lives with her family in Biddulph, Staffordshire, told Sky News: "It was hard, because I didn't understand a lot of things, and I wasn't really getting much attention. Ms Priest added: "This new centre will provide hope for thousands of families like us that are fighting to get a diagnosis for their children." The development of the complex has been funded by a group of philanthropists, with £10m coming from the businessman John Caudwell. The Caudwell International Centre will bring together assessment, diagnosis, family support and research into autism.

Moped gang exposed by Amanda Holden jailed for total of 67 years

A moped gang that ram-raided shops and threatened to hurt a woman's child and "take him away" have been jailed for a total of 67 years.

Three of the gang were caught in May last year after they all jumped on one bike and were chased for 90 minutes through 10 London boroughs by police cars and a helicopter.

I'm going to hurt your child and take him away." She dragged her son out of reach, before builders with scaffolding poles chased the gang away during the incident in Richmond in June 2018. They extended their crime spree outside the capital in January last year, stealing three motorbikes worth £30,000 from Redditch in Worcestershire after the owner accidentally put his address on eBay. Police say catching the gang has helped cut moped-enabled crime in the capital by 52% in the space of a year.

'Don't do it' - George Clooney advised Ben Affleck against Batman role

George Clooney has revealed he gave Ben Affleck some advice on taking on the Batman role: "Don't do it".

Clooney played Gotham City's caped crusader in Joel Schumacher's 1997 film *Batman & Robin*, which also starred Arnold Schwarzenegger, and was panned by critics.

It meant when Affleck signed up to play the DC superhero in 2016's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, Clooney was able to offer him some advice based on his own experience playing the Dark Knight.

US and Iran: Could tensions between both sides escalate beyond war of words?

US-Iranian tensions are back in the headlines after America sent heavy firepower to the region with reports of mysterious attacks on shipping in the Persian Gulf.

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But the nature of the attack and damage is not clear.

The Trump administration says it has intelligence Iran is plotting to attack its assets in the region. Last week America's chief diplomat blew out the Chancellor of Germany and flew off to Baghdad instead, to discuss the threat to US personnel there from Iran, among other things.

Donald Trump says the Iranian nuclear deal was a bad one because it did not include what Iran is doing with ballistic missiles and how it is destabilising the region. To reopen negotiations would be a sign of enormous weakness by any Iranian politician, and no one in Tehran can afford to look weak at the moment.

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Why tech stocks are feeling the worst trade war pain

Newton's Third Law states that, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

They include the big US industrial stocks whose fortunes depend on global trade, such as construction equipment giant Caterpillar (down 4.6%), farm equipment maker Deere (down 5.5%) and Boeing (down 3.3%). Other big fallers on the Nasdaq include the electric vehicle maker Tesla (down 3%) which began selling its Model 3 in China earlier this year and which is currently building a new factory outside Shanghai.

The chipmaker Intel (down 2%), which only three weeks ago saw its shares battered after admitting to weaker sales in China, has also fallen. President Trump has insisted all along - to the bafflement of trade experts - that the only real victim of his tariff hikes would be Chinese exporters.

On Sunday, though, the president's chief economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, broke with that as he told Fox News that American businesses and consumers would also be hit, adding: "Both sides will pay." Also worrying investors is the thought that worse may be to come.

However, with Mr Trump also now threatening to slap tariffs on a further \$325bn worth of Chinese imports that have so far not been singled out, the fear persists that these devices would be hit next time around.

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Fugitive or hero? Timeline of Julian Assange's nine-year long legal battle

Julian Assange claimed political asylum at the Ecuadorian embassy in London in June 2012 and has been there until his arrest on 11 April this year.

Eva-Marie Persson, Sweden's deputy director of public prosecutions, tells a news conference in Stockholm that "there is still a probable cause to suspect that Assange committed a rape" and new questioning is required.

Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor: What the royal baby's name means

At odds of 100/1 from the bookies, Harry and Meghan's baby boy has been named Archie.

A name of German origin, Archie is the shortened version of Archibald, meaning "genuine", "bold" and "brave". Listen to the Behind the Headlines podcast on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Spreaker The royal couple introduced Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor to the media for the first time before taking him to meet the Queen and Prince Philip. The couple celebrated privately for a few days before introducing the baby to the world on Wednesday.