



Security Snippets — January 2019

A monthly compendium of cybersecurity news



Security at
[organization]

Enter your security news here (or delete this row).

Hot Topics

This newsletter contains links to online news articles and websites. Before clicking, see “Should You Trust the Links” way below.

It’s tax scam season. Woo hoo! So please be on the lookout for IRS- and W-2 themed phishing and scam emails, texts, and telephone calls. And watch out for emails about (fake) invoices and phishes spoofing Desert Financial and other banks.

You may have heard that [773 million email addresses and passwords](#) were recently posted online and a [Nest security camera](#) warned that North Korea launched a nuclear rocket towards us. What do these two things have in common? They show what happens when you reuse passwords. The cache of email addresses and passwords came from many different individual data breaches. The family using the Nest camera reused an old password that allowed a hacker access. Should you worry? Not really, but make sure you change all your passwords (using unique ones for different systems) and enable 2-factor authentication when it’s offered (aka multi-factor or strong authentication). Learn more about passwords and other security topics [here](#).

Cybercrime / Hacking

Here’s a great get-rich-quick scheme. Hack into the Security and Exchange Commission’s systems and steal company information before it goes public. Then play the stock market based on your “insider” information. Too bad [it’s illegal and bad guys get caught](#).

Not cybersecurity related, but funny. The Louisiana police department invited people to turn in meth to [“test it for the Zika virus.”](#)

Home / Personal Issues

Do you have a smart device at home? Follow the [guidance issued by the UK](#) to prevent hackers from telling you about a nuclear rocket launch.

Friendly reminder — when you get rid of an old device, [wipe your naked videos](#). [Here’s how](#).

The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office is hosting a Shred-A-Thon Saturday, February 16, from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at Target, 3425 West Frye Road, Chandler, AZ 85226.

Politics / Legislation

Contrary to previous rulings, a California judge declared that the government did not have the right, even with a warrant, to force suspects to incriminate themselves by [unlocking their devices with their biological features](#), like a fingerprint.

The company formerly known as Kraft Foods was hit with ransomware. Luckily, they had cyber insurance. But the insurance carrier refused to pay and claims the [ransomware was “an act of war.”](#) This has massive ramifications.

This is pretty interesting. [Is a dating app a defective product](#) if somebody uses it for harassment?

Privacy /
ID Theft

Feeling a bit paranoid? Here's [how to find hidden cameras](#) and spy gear like a professional.

Snippets doesn't use Facebook, but Facebook still knows Snippets — and [you too \(even if you delete your account\)](#). And if you want to peek under the covers of our doomed privacy, check out this [article on surveillance capitalism](#) and "[The Creepy Line](#)," a new documentary that reveals how major tech companies manipulate us by collecting our data. (Thanks to a loyal Snippets reader for info on "The Creepy Line.")

Who owns your face? In the U.S., we don't own our own personal info. Whoever collects it, owns it. But in this age where everybody has a camera and can immediately post images online, [who owns your face?](#)

Best Practices /
Risk Mgmt

Um, if you're a hitman, may Snippets suggest you **don't** wear your [GPS watch](#), which puts you at the scene of some murders, to your job.

Snippets has mentioned deepfakes before. If you need a refresher on the risks, here's a very [good article about them](#). Snippets especially likes the Blade Runner rule — the concept that we should have a right to know whether we're interacting with a robot or not.

It's sad you need to look below the fun surface and [think critically about potential motives](#).

Quotes of the Month

Passwords are like underwear: make them personal, make them exotic, and change them on a regular basis.

— overheard at SecureWorld Atlanta

Thinking of cybersecurity solely as an IT issue is like believing that a company's entire workforce, from the CEO down, is just one big HR issue.

— Steven Chabinsky

People ask me all the time, "What keeps you up at night?" And I say, "Spicy Mexican food, weapons of mass destruction, and cyber attacks."

— Dutch Ruppertsberger

Bonus!

Now this is how you [announce a snow day](#).

Sometimes you just need [funny dog memes](#) or to admire some of [our planet's beauty](#).

Questions & Feedback

Security Snippets is brought to you by the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and your organization. Its purpose is to increase Arizona's cyber resilience by helping you learn more about security and privacy, so you can better protect yourself and your family.

Important: It is up to you to make sure you take the proper steps to secure your home networks and devices. The ACTIC is not responsible for your personal devices.

Contact Snippets at [ACTIC Cybersecurity](#) with any questions, to provide feedback, or to be added/removed from this distribution. Please note that this email address is not monitored 24x7.

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Should You Trust the Links

This email contains links. Should you trust them? Thanks for asking! So, let's examine this message. It contains the ACTIC's standard header, states its purpose is to increase your security awareness, and doesn't threaten or ask you to respond immediately. The verbiage is conversational, rather than formal and attempts to be interesting and entertaining, as well as educational. And you probably signed up to receive this newsletter. Snippets says to trust it, but what do you think? Send an email to ACTICCybersecurity@azdps.gov. (Hint: Hover your mouse over any link to see where it's really going.) Here's a really good article from the Electronic Frontier Foundation called [How to Avoid Phishing Attacks](#).
