



Security Snippets — October 2018

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.

Pop quiz: What’s more likely – Russia hacking into our elections infrastructure or posting to social media to influence our vote and sow discord? Be aware that nation states (not just Russia) want to divide and demoralize us, erode confidence in our values and government, sow dissent and doubt, distract us, and encourage infighting. Be alert for defaced websites, [politically charged social media posts and tweets](#), and websites created to mislead voters. And nothing is sacred to the Russians trying to roil us – Russian [trolls were behind some negative ‘Star Wars: The Last Jedi’ tweets!](#)

Cybercrime / Hacking

Some of the newer malicious software uses your computer to make cryptocurrencies (like bitcoin) work. Cryptocurrencies rely on a lot of encryption technologies, but that eats up computer processing power. So bad guys have [developed malware to make your device \(including smartphones\) do the processing](#). Infection symptoms include your device running very, very slowly and/or overheating.

Now this is low. There’s a [text message scam](#) that claims to come from a county Medical Examiner Department. The message says that a family member (who is identified by name) has died and instructs the recipient to reply to the text message. Trust Snippets – a government official will never notify you of a death via text message.

Hmmm. Snippets kinda loves this (and knows that it’s wrong!). A grey-hat hacker [hacked into thousands of MikroTik routers](#) without users’ knowledge to protect them against cybercriminals.

Home / Personal Issues

ZDNet recently published two very good guides. One to [find and kill spyware and stalkerware on your smartphone](#) and another to [protect your privacy from hackers and spies](#). And here’s how to [buy and set up a secure baby monitor](#).

Europol, the European Union’s law enforcement agency, has a wonderful site that explains how many [popular cyber scams work](#).

Here’s a great [new collection of games from the FBI](#) for kid to teach them about safe online surfing. Snippets made it through the 3rd grade!

Politics / Legislation

Add Snippets to those who support an [Internet Bill of Rights](#). What do [you think?](#)

Privacy /
ID Theft

Have you ever wondered [how much your info is worth](#) on the dark web? Or just give up your personal data for coffee.

Nice. Apple created a portal so you can [get a copy of the data](#) that the company stores on you. The EU’s General Data Protection Requirement (GDPR) requires companies to provide that info to EU citizens, but the U.S. doesn’t have any similar federal legislation.

Be prepared for your car to start [tracking everything about you](#). Can you imagine your car not starting because [you’re stressed](#).

Best Practices / Risk Mgmt	<p>When Kanye West visited the White House, he showed everybody a picture on his iPhone. All well and good, but media filmed Kanye entering his passcode. And it's 000000. Learn from Kanye – pick strong passcodes and watch out for shoulder surfers!</p> <p>Be suspicious of emails with these most common phishing subject lines and these manipulation tactics.</p> <p>The analyst group Garner has named digital ethics and privacy one of its top ten strategic technology trends for 2019. Gee, Snippets always considered digital ethics and privacy a fundamental principle, not a trend.</p>
Quotes of the Month	<p>We know everyone who breaks the law. We know when you're doing it. We have GPS in your car, so we know what you're doing. — Jim Farley, Ford Motor Company's top sales executive, who is known for making off-the-cuff comments, told a panel at the Consumer Electronics Show.</p> <p>By the way, we don't supply that data to anyone. — Jim Farley, a few moments later. (He later issued a full retraction.)</p> <p>We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing. — R. D. Laing</p>
Bonus!	<p>Take a look at the best wildlife photos of the year.</p> <p>Hmmm. The woman who wrote 'How to Murder Your Husband' was arrested for allegedly murdering her husband. Snippets thinks there's a lesson here.</p> <p>This is the version of Pachelbel's Canon Chicken to play at Snippets' wedding.</p>
Questions & Feedback	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Important</u>: 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Any views or opinions presented in this newsletter are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the ACTIC. Reference to any specific commercial product, process, service, link, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the reader, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or disparagement by the ACTIC.</p>
Should You Trust the Links	<p>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.)</p>
