



Security Snippets — May 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 summer and that means Snippets will be sitting on a beach enjoying a few adult beverages. But before you enjoy, check out these tips for a [cyber safe vacation](#).

For the first time, a government publicly announced that it had immediately responded to a cyberattack by [launching a “kinetic attack.”](#) On May 5, Hamas soldiers were preparing to launch a cyberattack against Israel, so Israel Defense Forces and Israel Security Authority jointly launched an airstrike and blew up Hamas’ cyber headquarters (even though Israel had already “neutralized” the cyberattack). Snippets expects cyber warfare to become much more blatant. Why? Because, as this [very good article explains](#), it’s the perfect weapon.

Cybercrime / Hacking

A new, popular phishing scam appears to come from a law firm [notifying you that you’re being sued](#). Don’t believe it! Just like the IRS doesn’t notify you via email, you can’t be legally “served” via email. As always, don’t click on any links or open any attachments.

Not to scare you, but there was a distributed denial of service (DDOS) [attack on a west coast power company](#). The Department of Energy said the event “did not impact generation, the reliability of the grid or cause any customer outages,” but it was bad enough that the utility company filed an electric disturbance report with DOE — the same form reserved for major interruptions like storms, physical attacks, or fuel shortages.

How do you hack into a device secured with facial recognition? Just [use a picture of the person](#). Sheesh.

Home / Personal Issues

This is horrific. A teen [jumped to her death](#) after asking her social media followers to vote on whether she should kill herself. Parents, please [talk to your kids](#) about the power of social media and use of technology.

Google posted five, simple [things you can do right now](#) to stay safer online. This is a very good, commonsense list.

Here’s a really good set of indicators [your computer has a malware infection](#) and what to do about it.

And here’s a pretty extensive list of online, [free computer science courses](#). Let’s do some learning over the summer!

Politics / Legislation

Snippets has mentioned deepfakes before. Well, recently somebody manipulated videos of Nancy Pelosi to [make her appear drunk](#).

Privacy /
ID Theft

Snippets used to live in a brand new, hip apartment complex with smart locks that track when you enter and leave. And Snippets was the only resident that requested the apartment’s privacy policy for the locks. Now tenants can legally require landlords to give them [physical keys over smart locks](#).

Hmmm... Should Snippets use the Duckduckgo or Google search engine? [Let’s compare!](#) If you’re interested in keeping your searches private, there’s no question which one to use.

Best Practices / Risk Mgmt	Test yourself — Can you identify a fake social media account ? One reason why Snippets needs adult beverages is because we keep picking stupidly weak passwords .
Quotes of the Month	Security is like the brakes on your car. It slows you down, but it also makes it possible for you to go a lot faster. — Dr. Gary Hinson The best way past a pesky security feature is a 13-year old. — Unknown There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full. — Henry Kissinger
Bonus!	While Snippets doesn't disparage any group, ethnicity, or persuasion, some of these headlines had tears of laughter rolling down Snippets' face. And these are just from Q1. These entries to the 2019 World Beard and Moustache Championships put hipsters to shame!
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. <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. 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. 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.
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.)
