Cyber Threat Report 04 April 2019

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Threat Actor Update

Russia Regularly Spoofs Regional GPS
The Center for Advanced Defense (C4ADS) found spoofing of the global navigational satellite system regularly occurred near sensitive areas in Russia, Crimea, and Syria.

North Korean Hackers Behind $571M Crypto Heists
A UN report states the DPRK uses cyberspace “as an asymmetric means to carry out illicit and undercover operations in the field of cybercrime and sanctions evasion.”

Chinese Hackers Target Universities to Steal Maritime Secrets
According to iDefense, Chinese hackers used spear phising to target 27 universities around the world to gain access to maritime military research.

Microsoft Takes Down 99 Hacker-Controlled Websites
A judge granted an injunction allowing Microsoft to disrupt a network of sites the Iranian-linked group APT35 (Charming Kitten, Ajax Security Team, “Phosphorus”) used to execute phishing attacks with fake Microsoft security warnings.

Secret Service Detain Chinese Woman with Malware at Mar-a-Lago
The woman bypassed layers of security with a thumb drive containing malware

Threat Target Update

Ransomware Strikes Norsk Hydro, 2 US-based Chemical Companies
LockerGogo, a malicious encryption program, likely infected a Norwegian aluminum company and US firms Hexion and Momentive costing tens of millions in lost business.

Top Navy Admiral Warns of Cyberattacks Against Brass
Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said the cyber threat against its top brass led to last year’s decision to stop publicly releasing promotion lists.

Hackers Hijacked ASUS Software Updates to Install Backdoors
Kaspersky Labs claims a sophisticated supply chain attack led approximately one million PCs to download and install spyware from the update servers of ASUS, the world’s fifth largest computer maker. Three unnamed vendors may also be infected.

Albany, NY and Jackson County, GA suffer ransomware attacks
Link: Jackson County paid $400,000 to regain access to systems and data
Link: Albany: damage unknown, but most services available

Half of industrial control system networks have faced cyberattacks
According to Kaspersky Lab’s Threat Landscape for Industrial Automation Systems report, almost one in two industrial systems display evidence of attackers attempting malicious activity--in most cases, detected by security software.

ACI Update

- Dr. Erica Borghard co-authored “Chinese Hackers are Stealing U.S. Defense Secrets: Here is How to Stop Them” for The Council on Foreign Relations.
- ACI formalized partnership with 335th Signal Command.
- The 2019 International Conference on Cyber Conflict in the U.S. (CyCon U.S.) will explore Defending Forward. The Call for Papers is open now through 22 July 2019.