

IN THE NEWS

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World News

During this newsletter, much of the world focused on Russia [1]. This includes US military aid to Russia's foe, the Ukraine [2]. However, China continues its expansion of military capabilities. For instance, one report indicated China is conducting electronic warfare tests on artificial islands constructed in the South China Sea [3]. This comes as China launched two more 13,000-ton guided missile destroyers on July 3 [4]. What's more, one piece predicts that within a year, China will challenge the US by using a naval exercise in the South China Sea to temporarily close the area [5].

The FBI Director, Christopher Wray, warned that China is America's most significant intelligence threat [6]. Another piece indicates China is waging a cold war against the US using approaches different from those of Russia [7]. Meanwhile, China's rapid military rise is not going unnoticed. Perhaps the biggest challenger may come from Japan. Case in point, it is estimated that Japan has enough plutonium to construct 6,000 atomic bombs [8].

1. Ewing, Philip, NPR, *Why Did Russia Attack The 2016 Election? This Week's Whirlwind Offers New Clues*, July 19, 2018.
2. Haltiwanger, John, Business Insider, *As Trump continues to defend his Putin bromance, Mattis just signaled the US will continue arming one of Moscow's biggest foes*, July 20, 2018.
3. Macias, Amanda, CNBC, *China is quietly conducting electronic warfare tests in the South China Sea*, July 5, 2018.
4. Lendon, Brad, CNN, *China's new destroyers: 'Power, prestige and majesty'*, July 13, 2018.
5. Hartcher, Peter, The Sydney Morning Herald, *'China will challenge US naval supremacy within a year'*, July 14, 2018.
6. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *FBI Director Warns China is Ameri-*

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Security

The race to keep software safe continues to rely on patch management. For example, Microsoft's Patch Tuesday addressed 54 vulnerabilities [1]. Then on July 17, Microsoft released an additional 27 security patches [2]. Adobe released patches to fix over 100 vulnerabilities [3]. Additionally, Oracle released patches to correct 334 vulnerabilities [4]. During the month, Apple patched 76 security issues [5]. Finally,

Cisco released patches to fix four vulnerabilities [6].

In recent news, there was a suggestion that a copy of files given to the FBI is equivalent to having access to the complete computer system [7]. There are separate issues here; does a copy equate to the original and does the FBI have the expertise to conduct forensics on a computer system. Starting with the second question first. Readers may recall back in the late

1990's we saw the FBI's Digital Telephony effort to dumb down digital telephone switches in order to make wiretapping easier. This went on to become law [8]. We also recall the San Bernardino iPhone episode that suggests the FBI lacks some internal expertise in computer forensics [9]. As for the first question, the laws of physics cannot be ignored. There are holistic events

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Special points of interest:

- Lowest First Time Unemployment Claims Since 1969
- NASDAQ Record High

Security

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taking place below the operating system that are not accessible from a copy.

1. Leonhard, Woody, Computerworld, *Patch Tuesday problems abound, Server 2016 crashes, and a .Net patch goes down in flames*, July 12, 2018.
2. Leonhard, Woody, Computerworld, *Stung by a festering pile of bugs on Patch Tuesday, MS releases 27 more patches*, June 16, 2018.
3. Osborne, Charlie, ZDNet, *Adobe fixes over*

100 vulnerabilities in latest security patch update, July 11, 2018.

4. Abel, Robert, SC Magazine, *Oracle to release fixes for 334 vulnerabilities*, July 13, 2018.
5. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Apple patches 76 security issues with latest software releases*, July 10, 2018.
6. Brown, Matt, CRN, Cisco *Patches 4 'Critical' Mobile Security Flaws*, July 20, 2018.
7. Sanchez, Julian, Washington Post, *Trump could get his intel from the govern-*

ment. Instead, he gets it from Fox News, July 20, 2018.

8. Van Bakel, Rogier, Wired, *How Good People Helped Make a Bad Law*, February 2, 1996.
9. CNBC/AP, *Senator reveals that the FBI paid \$900,000 to hack into San Bernardino killer's iPhone*, May 8, 2017.

*Even a dog distinguishes
between being stumbled
over and being kicked—
Oliver Wendell Holmes,
Jr.*

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ca's Most Significant Intelligence Threat, July 19, 2018.

7. CNBC/AP, *China is waging a 'quiet kind of cold war' against US, top CIA expert says*, July 21, 2018.
8. The Economic Times/AFP, *Japan and US renew nuke pact amid Japan plutonium stock concern*, July 17, 2018. .

World News

Terrorism

Regarding the Islamic State (IS), acts of terrorism are on the decline; however overall violence is still continuing [1]. Within the US, domestic terrorism continues to be a reality. For example, in Boise, Idaho, a knife attacker injured 9 people in an apartment housing refugees [2]. In California, an Islamic State supporter was arrested for planning a mass causality bombing attack [3].

Overseas in Nigeria, Islamic militants dressed as soldiers overran a base leaving hundreds unaccounted for [4]. In Afghanistan, a suicide attack directed against Sikhs and Hindus left at least 19 people dead [5]. Then at least one US service man was killed in an inside attack carried out by a member of the Afghan security forces [6].

1. Schmitt, Eric, NY Times, *ISIS May Be Waning, but Global Threats of Terrorism Continue to Spread*, July 6, 2018.

2. Bacon, John, USA Today, *Refugees among 9 wounded in knife attack at Idaho apartments*, July 1, 2018.
3. Sorace, Stephen, Fox News, *Berkeley High grad pleads guilty to helping ISIS, spoke of plan to kill 10,000 in Bay Area*, July 20, 2018.
4. Kube, Courtney, and Smith, Alexander, NBC News, *Hundreds of Nigerian soldiers unaccounted for after attack, officials say*, July 19, 2018.
5. Cimmino, Jeffrey, Washington Free Beacon, *Suicide Attack Targets Sikhs, Hindus in Afghanistan*, July 2, 2018.
6. Romerom Dennis, NBC/Reuters, *U.S. service member killed, 2 wounded in 'insider attack' in Afghanistan*, July 8, 2018.

Human judges can show mercy. But against the laws of nature, there is no appeal.—Arthur C. Clarke

Economy

Signs of a strong economy continue. For the week ending June 30, the number of first time unemployment claims was 231,000 [1]. For the week ending July 7, the number of first time claims was 214,000 [2]. Finally, for the week ending July 14, the number of claims fell to 207,000; a number not seen since December 1969 [3].

On July 12, the Nasdaq stock index reached a new high [2]. Then on July 13, the Nasdaq reached another record high [4]. Finally, on July 17 the Nasdaq set another record high [5].

1. Nasdaq, *Financial Sector Update for 07/05/2018*: WU, July 5, 2018.
2. Nasdaq, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Drop More Than Expected To 214,000*, July 12, 2018.
3. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims drop to the lowest level since 1969* Nasdaq, *Market Close Report: Historical high reached as NASDAQ Composite Index closes at 7,823.92*, July 12, 2018.
4. Levisohn, Ben, *Barrons, Nasdaq Hits Record High, Defying Tariffs*, July 14, 2018.
5. The Straits Times/AFP, *Nasdaq ends at record after Fed upbeat on US economy*, July 17, 2018

The freedom to criticize judges and other public officials is necessary to a vibrant democracy. The problem comes when healthy criticism is replaced with more destructive intimidation and sanctions.—Sandra Day O'Connor
