

IN THE NEWS

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World News

The Russian news media released information on a high speed (56 knots) weapon system is a long range underwater nuclear delivery system [1]. The new weapon is described as a long range nuclear torpedo capable of destroying coastal areas [2]. In essence, the new weapon is a long range underwater nuclear delivery system.

While most of the world's attention is focused on the Middle-East and Russian activities; China continues to enhance its military capability. For instance, China conducted its eighth test of an anti-satellite missile [3].

What's more, as China continues to expand its wealth and industry, the problems of pollution grow. For instance, in parts of north-east China, new air pollution records were set with some levels reaching 56 times the safe limit [4]. People living in the smog in the city of Shenyang experienced reduced visibility with buildings shrouded in toxic clouds [5]. Concurrently, China is continuing to use its newfound wealth to advance in the technology area. Case in point, as the list of top 500 supercomputers in the world showed a reduction in US machines to 200, China increased to 109; including the one rated the most powerful [6].

Elsewhere in Asia, Japan decided to rely on the US for its military to patrol the South China Sea and not commit any of its navy ships [7]. This is a significant win for China's claim to the important trade route.

1. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Russia Reveals Secret Nuclear-Armed Drone Sub*, November 11, 2015.

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Security

Approximately 200,000 Comcast customers were advised to change their passwords after private accounts were auctioned on an underground dark web site [1]. Meanwhile, US prosecutors announced criminal charges against three men charged in the 2014 JPMorgan Chase & Co attack of 83 million customer accounts that netted hundreds of millions of dollars in illegal profit [2].

One report indicates that half of developers rush mobile applications to market with security as a secondary consideration [3]. Regardless of how vulnerabilities make it into software, keeping software up to date with security fixes continues to be a challenge. For instance, Microsoft's patch Tuesday for November addresses several critical vulnerabilities that if left unfixed, could allow remote code execution [4]. Shortly

thereafter, Microsoft released another patch to fix problems detected in the first patch [5]. Likewise, Adobe's patch fixed 17 critical vulnerabilities [6]. This was followed by another out of cycle patch to fix non-Flash products [7]. What the Microsoft and Adobe examples show is the challenge in getting security fixes out quickly while maintaining code quality.

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Special points of interest:

- Terror attacks in France

Security

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4. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Patch Tuesday: Microsoft addresses IE and Edge vulnerabilities*, November 10, 2015.
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6. Robinson, Teri, SC Magazine, *Patch Tuesday: Adobe addresses 17 critical vulnerabilities in Flash*, November 10, 2015.
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The question of whether a computer can think is no more interesting than the question of whether a submarine can swim—
Edsger Dijkstra

World News

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4. Phillips, Tom, The Guardian (UK), *Airpocalypse now: China pollution reaching record levels*, November 8, 2015.
5. Rauhala, Emily, Washington Post, *Airpocalypse, again. With winter coming*, November 9, 2015.
6. Naidu-Ghelani, Rajeshni, BBC News, *China nearly triples number of supercomputers, report says*, November 17, 2015.
7. Cossa, Ralph, Japan

Terrorism

An Islamic State (IS) terrorist attack in Paris left at least 127 people dead [1]. Among the first responses from France was dropping 20 bombs on IS targets in Styria [2]. In a Paris suburb, two suspected terrorists were killed during a seven hour standoff, including a female suicide bomber who detonated explosives [3].

In the Middle East, the Islamic State (IS) continues to use suicide bombers as a weapon. For instance, in Beirut, twin attacks against a Hezbollah stronghold left at least 43 people dead [4].

Meanwhile, Russian officials confirmed the crashed airliner was brought down by a bomb and places the blame on Islamic Terrorists [5]. This comes as the top Democratic on the Senate Intelligence Committee, Dianne Feinstein, pointed out the IS isn't contained [6].

One thing we currently do not see in Western cities; people with gas masks and other protective gear. However, in the near this might well change. Case in point, the IS terrorist group is determined to produce chemical weapons [7]. This follows previous reports supporting the claim the IS developed and used chemical weapons in Syria [8]. The question here is when will

such weapons be used against soft targets in Western cities? Then Islamic terrorist attacked a hotel in the African nation of Mali [9]. The hotel was frequented by foreign travelers. Case in point, among the victims were three Chinese businessmen [10].

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6. Demirjian, Karoun, Washington Post, *Feinstein echoes Clinton, countering Obama for saying ISIS is 'contained'*, November 16, 2015.
7. Hendawi, Hamza, AP, *Officials: Is Determined to Produce Chemical Weapons*, November 19, 2015.
8. Blake, Paul, BBC News, *US official: 'IS making and using chemical weapons in Iraq and Syria'*, September 11, 2015.
9. Karimi, Faith, and Burnett, Erin, CNN, *Mali hotel attack: Gunmen barged in, shot at 'anything that moved'*, November 21, 2015.
10. Perlez, Jane, New York Times, *3 Chinese Executives Killed in Mali Attack, Company Says*, November 21, 2015.

You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it—Margaret Thatcher

Economy

For October, US imports to China fell by 18.8% compared to last year [1]. Perhaps this is why the September trade deficit of \$40.8B included an all-time high with China of \$36.3B [7]. Stated another way, 89% of the US trade deficit is now with China. Meanwhile, during the July-September quarter, Japan's economy contracted 0.2% highlighting a slip back into an economic recession [2].

According to the Labor Department, for the week ending

November 7, the number of first time unemployment claims was 276,000 [3]. Then for the following week, the number reported was 271,000 [4].

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consistent with healthy labor market, November 12, 2015.

4. .Morath, Eric, Wall Street Journal, *U.S. Jobless Claims Decline*, November 19, 2015.

In the long course of history, having people who understand your thought is much greater security than another submarine—J.

William Fulbright
