




Yuval Ne'eman Workshop
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Tel Aviv University


Blavatnik Interdisciplinary
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Cyber News April 2024

On behalf of the Yuval Ne'eman Workshop for Science, Technology and Security, we are happy to share some of the most interesting events and developments that took place in April 2024

April 3 – Singapore Introduced Updated Version of the Cybersecurity Act of 2018

– On April 3rd, Singapore's Cyber Security Agency (CSA), [presented](#) a proposed [amendment](#) to the Cybersecurity Act of 2018 for initial parliamentary approval. This amendment mandates stricter reporting requirements for owners of critical infrastructure in the finance, water, and electricity sectors. They will be obligated to disclose [a wider range](#) of cyber incidents to the CSA, including disruptions within their supply chains. Additionally, the amendment prescribes the implementation of technological advancements, such as cloud computing services and novel process models, to bolster the resilience and overall cybersecurity posture of these critical infrastructure owners. Concurrently, the CSA will formulate streamlined and less onerous regulations for two newly defined categories of organizations: Foundational Digital Infrastructure (FDI) and Entities of Special Cybersecurity Interest (ESCI). Examples of ESCI entities include universities with a national role and custodians of sensitive data. Unlike critical infrastructure organizations, these entities will be exempt from submitting audit reports and risk assessments for CSA review, nor will they be required to participate in nationwide cybersecurity drills. Finally, entities tasked with managing digital infrastructure within organizations that provide essential services, such as cloud service providers and data center operators, will be subject to the regulations, adhering to fundamental cybersecurity protocols and reporting cyber incidents to the CSA.

April 3 – The U.S., Japan and the Philippines Launched a Mutual Cyber Defense Alliance

– In response to the escalating cyber threats emanating from China, Russia, and North Korea, the governments of Japan, the United States, and the Philippines [announced](#) their intention to forge a cooperative agreement and establish a formal cyber defense alliance. The agreement [will center](#) on bolstering preparedness against cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure and combating cybercrime. Its multifaceted approach will encompass measures to mitigate potential cyber threats, foster the exchange of cyber threat intelligence across public and private sectors, and implement additional initiatives. Subsequently, [on April 11th](#), US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. convened in Washington for a political summit designed to strengthen cooperation in the spheres of security and economy. During the summit, the leaders committed to collaboration across a broad spectrum of areas, including information technology advancements, [the Open RAN initiative](#) and the establishment of a tripartite dialogue mechanism on cyber and technology policy.

April 11 – Two American Lawmakers Introduced New Bipartisan Bill for Regulating Ransom Payments in the Finance Sector

- Lawmakers Patrick McHenry and Brittany Pettersen of the U.S. House of Representatives have [introduced](#) a bipartisan piece of legislation known as [The Ransomware and Financial Stability Act](#). This proposed bill mandates that financial institutions, including stock exchanges and their technology service providers, must notify the Treasury Department prior to disbursing any ransom payments to cyber attackers. Additionally, the bill sets a prohibition on paying ransom amounts exceeding \$100,000 without first obtaining clearance from law enforcement authorities. The legislation also aims to guarantee the confidentiality of reports submitted by organizations regarding ransomware attacks they have encountered.

April 12 - UK and South Korea Presented Their Initiative to Host an International Conference on Safe Development and Use of AI

- A joint [announcement](#) from Great Britain and South Korea heralded the convening of a summit dedicated to the safe development and utilization of AI technology. Scheduled for [May 21st-22nd](#), 2024, in Seoul, the summit promises to be a linchpin for international collaboration. Expected to participate virtually are both Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of Great Britain and President Yoon Suk Yeol of South Korea. Joining them will be a distinguished assemblage of industry leaders from across the globe and government officials from both nations. The agenda for the summit encompasses a multifaceted exploration of AI. Discussions will center on fostering robust international cooperation in the realm of safe AI use, while simultaneously promoting innovation and ensuring the technology's sustainable development. Representatives from the global AI industry will present their progress in implementing their commitments to developing secure AI models, following the AI Safety Summit, held in the UK in November 2023. Additionally, an international scientific report on advanced AI safety will be unveiled, for accelerating the development of critical insights in this domain.

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