**CYBERSECURITY**

**Natural Gas Compressor Facility Shut Down After Ransomware Attack**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced this week that a ransomware attack shut down a natural gas compressor facility for two days. While in the network, the attacker deployed software trying to “identify critical assets” before setting off the ransomware and in the process, may have also disabled detection processes in place to identify the ransomware. The date of the attack was not specified. [Read more](#)

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**HIPAA**

**Yearly Data Breach Reporting Due to OCR by February 29**

Every year, we remind our readers that the HIPAA data breach notification regulations require covered entities to notify the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of any reportable data breaches that involved fewer than 500 individuals and have not already been self-reported within 60 days following the calendar year. That means that covered entities are required to provide notification to the OCR of data breaches under 500 by February 29, 2020. So this deadline is not missed, many covered entities elect to provide notification to the OCR simultaneously with individual notice, no matter how many individuals are involved. [Read more](#)

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**DATA BREACH**

**More Than 30 Data Breach Incidents in Health Care Reported to HHS Thus Far in 2020, Affecting Over One Million Individuals**

Health care organizations continue to be a popular target for hackers. According to information from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), more than 30 reports of data breaches were filed by health care entities in the first month and a half of 2020. Although a few reported breaches involved theft or improper disposal of information, the majority of the reported breaches concerned hacking/IT incidents and unauthorized access or disclosure. [Read more](#)

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**ENFORCEMENT + LITIGATION**

**Judge Rejects $4 Million TCPA Settlement**

This week, a Pennsylvania federal judge refused to approve a proposed $4 million settlement for violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) because it would provide the 67,000 class
members with only $35 each. In the 50-page opinion, U.S. District Judge Michael Baylson said that Flagship Credit Acceptance LLC (Flagship) ought to be able to provide a significantly higher amount of compensation to the alleged victims for its automatic telephone calls in violation of the TCPA. Read more

PRIVACY TIP #227
Sextortion Ransomware

Criminal minds are creative, and new ransomware strains show just how creative cyber-attackers can be. A new strain of ransomware, dubbed Ransomware, requests a different kind of payment from the victim than the typical bitcoin request. Read more

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