CYBERSECURITY

City of Durham, NC Hit With Ryuk Ransomware

Another city—Durham, North Carolina—has become the victim of a ransomware attack stemming from a Russian hacker group following a successful phishing scheme. After falling victim to the ransomware attack last weekend, the city shut down its network, including disabling access to the network by the Durham Police Department, the Sheriff’s Office and the communications center. Read more

DATA PRIVACY

Vermont Governor Signs Bill Requiring Data Privacy Inventory of Citizens’ PII

On March 5, 2020, Vermont Governor Phil Scott signed into law Senate Bill 110, “An act relating to data privacy and consumer protection,” which provides authority to develop a statewide data privacy inventory of the personally identifiable information (PII) that the state collects from and maintains of its citizens. Read more

Department of Health & Human Services Office for Civil Rights Issues Guidance Regarding HIPAA Privacy and Novel Coronavirus

The Health & Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) last month provided guidance and a reminder to HIPAA-covered entities and their business associates regarding the sharing of patient health information (PHI) under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule during an outbreak or emergency situation such as what we are all facing with the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak. Read more

ENFORCEMENT + LITIGATION

Litigation Case Claims Violation of CCPA Under Statutory Private Right of Action

One of the most significant consumer rights offered by the new California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) is what we call the “private right of action” afforded by the law. A private right of action under a law basically means that if someone violates the law and a person is damaged, the person can assert a specific claim against the offender by citing the specific law. If the person damaged can prove that s/he was damaged and that the damage was caused by the one who violated the law, that person can potentially get past a Motion to Dismiss. Read more
HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY

HHS Finalizes Joint Rules on Electronic Health Record Interoperability and Access

On March 9, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced final rules seeking to give patients more access to, and control of, their health data. The final rules were issued by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The ONC rule is available here and the CMS rule here. Both rules implement interoperability and patient access provisions from the 21st Century Cures Act and the Trump administration’s MyHealthEData initiative. Read more

NEW + NOW

Coronavirus and Remote Workers: Consider Increased Risk of Insider Threat Issues

The conference I was supposed to speak at next week was just cancelled, as many are and will be, due to coronavirus concerns. The topic was “Insider Threats and How to Mitigate Them.” One of the points I was going to make was that insider threats, both malicious and unintentional, are an ongoing and serious problem for companies. On top of that, now that many companies are “going remote” in response to coronavirus concerns, the risks of insider threats will only mount. Read more

PRIVACY TIP #229

Two RSA Conference Attendees Test Positive for Coronavirus

Coronavirus is wreaking havoc and causing cancellations to conferences and travel plans, and general disruption to everyday life. This week’s tip reviews a few privacy conferences facing that fate. Read more

© 2020 Robinson & Cole LLP. All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission. This document should not be considered legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship between Robinson+Cole and you. Consult your attorney before acting on anything contained herein. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Robinson+Cole or any other individual attorney of Robinson+Cole. The contents of this communication may contain ATTORNEY ADVERTISING under the laws of various states. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.