



CYBERSECURITY

[Spyware Company Hacked](#)

It has been reported that a hacker was able to break into the servers of TheTruthSpy, a company that is described as “one of the most notorious stalkerware companies out there” (*Motherboard*, August 2018) and was able to steal logins, audio recordings, text messages and pictures of victims.

Motherboard has issued a series of stories that provides consumers with information about surveillance software that is used to spy on loved ones and others without their knowledge. According to *Motherboard*, TheTruthSpy is “openly marketing its product to domestic abusers.” [Read more](#)

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

[State and Local Governments Test Blockchain Applications](#)

Proponents of blockchain technology, the distributed ledger system underlying bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, view the technology's applications as potentially offering significant efficiencies to the provision of government services. Two pilot projects currently underway are geared toward exploring the technology's potential in two key areas of services provided by state and local governments: real property recording and voting. [Read more](#)

GDPR

[GDPR Awareness Is On The Rise as Complaints Increase](#)

The United Kingdom data privacy watchdog reports that the number of complaints received since the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) took effect three months ago has almost doubled. Under GDPR, anyone who believes their personal data has been misused can file a complaint with the Information

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FEATURED AUTHORS:

[Linn Foster Freedman](#)
[Benjamin C. Jensen](#)
[James A. Merrifield](#)
[Kathryn M. Rattigan](#)

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Commissioner's Office, or ICO.

Legal Experts say GDPR is promoting greater privacy awareness, mainly because organizations have to reveal when, and often times, how they were breached. Ann Henry, a Dublin-based attorney who specializes in data protection law, says "This increase in reported data breaches and in complaints from data subjects is a trend we expect to see continuing as the public becomes increasingly aware of their rights under GDPR and the value of protecting their personal data from a privacy perspective." [Read more](#)

ENFORCEMENT + LITIGATION

[Southwest Airlines Biometric Information Case Dismissed--Sent to Arbitration](#)

We have been following litigation surrounding the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA), and noting that many employers have been sued for having employees use their fingerprints to clock into their jobs [view related [posts](#)].

This week, Southwest Airlines was successful in its quest to dismiss a proposed class action case that alleged that it required employees to clock in and out through a fingerprint scanner without their consent, which is an alleged violation of BIPA. [Read more](#)

DRONES

[Large UAS Fly Beyond Visual Line of Sight in North Dakota](#)

At Grand Sky, a commercial unmanned aerial system (UAS, or drone) focused research and development park in North Dakota, large UAS have started flying beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS). These test flights stem from cooperative efforts of Grand Sky, the U.S. Air Force, Grand Forks County, the Northern Plains UAS Test Site and others that helped to obtain approval of BVLOS operations from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). [Read more](#)

[FAA Investigates Near Drone-Helicopter Collision](#)

Last week, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began investigating a YouTube video that shows a helicopter almost colliding with a drone right off the coast of Hollywood Beach, Florida. In the video, the drone is heading west towards the coast before its camera turns south and the helicopter is seen in the distance; the helicopter remains on its path, which is in direct line with the path of

the drone, missing it by only a few feet as it continues to fly north. The video has since been removed—the user had posted a comment stating, “Enjoying an afternoon flight with my drone around Hollywood Beach, FL. A private helicopter flew right into my drone. I guess I got lucky that day nothing happened. Phew.” [Read more](#)

PRIVACY TIP #154

[Accessing the Do-Not-Call Registry](#)

Have you listed both our residential and cell phone numbers on the Do-Not-Call list? For those still receiving those annoying calls, this week's tip covers how to access the list and an update on associated fines for violations. [Read more](#)

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