



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact
John Robbins 281-965-6390
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Pandemic Cancels Texas African Business Summit



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Monday, December 21 2020

‘Powerful tradecraft’: how foreign cyber-spies compromised America



(Reuters) - Speaking at a private dinner for tech security executives at the St. Regis Hotel in San Francisco in late February, America’s top cyber defense chief boasted how well his organizations protect the country from spies.

The SolarWinds headquarters are seen in Austin, Texas, U.S., December 18, 2020. REUTERS/Sergio Flores U.S. teams were “understanding the adversary better than the adversary understands themselves,” said General Paul Nakasone, boss of the National Security Agency (NSA) and U.S. Cyber Command, according to a Reuters reporter present at the Feb. 26 dinner. His speech has not been previously reported.

Yet even as he spoke, hackers were embedding malicious code into the network of a Texas software company called SolarWinds Corp, according to a timeline published by Microsoft and more than a dozen government and corporate cyber researchers.

A little over three weeks after that dinner, the hackers began a sweeping

intelligence operation that has penetrated the heart of America’s government and numerous corporations and other institutions around the world.

The results of that operation came to light on Dec. 13, when Reuters reported that suspected Russian hackers had gained access to U.S. Treasury and Commerce Department emails. Since then, officials and researchers say they believe at least half-a-dozen U.S. government agencies have been infiltrated and thousands of companies infected with malware in what appears to be one of the biggest such hacks ever uncovered.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Friday Russia was behind the attack, calling it “a grave risk” to the United States. Russia has denied involvement.

Revelations of the attack come at a vulnerable time as the U.S. government grapples with a contentious presidential transition and a spiraling public health crisis. And it reflects a new level of sophistication and scale, hitting numerous federal agencies and threatening to inflict far more damage to public trust in America’s cybersecurity infrastructure than previous acts of digital espionage.

Much remains unknown -- including the motive or ultimate target.

Seven government officials have told Reuters they are largely in the dark about what information might have been stolen or manipulated -- or what it will take to undo the damage. The last known breach of U.S. federal systems by suspected Russian intelligence -- when hackers gained access to the unclassified email systems at the White House, the State Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2014 and 2015 -- took years to unwind.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday downplayed the hack and Russia’s involvement, maintaining it was “under control” and that China could be responsible. He accused the “Fake News Media” of exaggerating its extent.

The NSC, however, acknowledged that a “significant cyber incident” had taken place. “There will be an appropriate response to those actors behind this conduct,” said NSC spokesman John Ulliyot. He did not respond to a question on whether Trump had evidence of Chinese involvement in the attack. Several

A shipment of Pfizer’s coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines is unloaded from a United Airlines cargo-only flight from Brussels to O’Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois, U.S. December 2, 2020. United Airlines/Handout via REUTERS.

government agencies, including the NSA and the Department of Homeland Security, have issued technical advisories on the situation. Nakasone and the NSA declined to comment for this story.

Lawmakers from both parties said they were struggling to get answers from the departments they oversee, including Treasury. One senate staffer said his boss knew more about the attack from the media than the government.

‘POWERFUL TRADECRAFT’

The hack first came into view last week, when U.S. cybersecurity firm FireEye Inc disclosed that it had itself been a victim of the very kind of cyberattack that clients pay it to prevent. Publicly, the incident initially seemed mostly like an embarrassment for FireEye. But hacks of security firms are

especially dangerous because their tools often reach deeply into the computer systems of their clients. Days before the hack was revealed, FireEye researchers knew something troubling was afoot and contacted Microsoft Corp and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, three people involved in those communications told Reuters. Microsoft and the FBI declined to comment. Their message: FireEye has been hit by an extraordinarily sophisticated cyber-espionage campaign carried out by a nation-state, and its own problems were likely just the tip of the iceberg. About half a dozen researchers from FireEye and Microsoft, set about investigating, said two sources familiar with the response effort. At the root of the problem, they found, was something that strikes dread in cybersecurity professionals: so-called supply-chain compromises, which in this case involved using software updates to install malware that can spy on systems, exfiltrate information and potentially wreak other types of havoc.



恆豐 銀行
American First National Bank

借記卡手機管理
24小時保護你的賬戶



Houston Area: Main Office 713-596-2888 Dallas Area: Richardson Branch 972-348-3488	Spring Branch 713-273-1838 Harry-Hines Branch 972-348-3433	Katy Branch 281-762-6688 Legacy Branch 972-348-3466	Harwin Branch 713-273-1888 Carrollton Branch 972-428-5088	First Colony Branch 713-596-2588 Arlington Branch 817-261-5585	Nevada Area: Las Vegas Branch 702-777-9988 Garland Branch 972-272-3375	Pahrump Branch 775-751-1773 Plano Branch 469-429-2422	Amargosa Valley Branch 775-372-1100 California Area: City of Industry Branch 626-667-3988 Alhambra Branch 626-863-1980
---	---	--	--	---	--	--	---

Editor's Choice



Smoke rises from the Bond Fire as evacuation orders are issued for nearby residents in Orange County, south of Los Angeles, California. REUTERS/Mike Blake



Supporters of President Trump participate in a “Stop the Steal” protest in Washington, November 14. REUTERS/Leah Millis



A health care worker collects a swab sample from a man during a rapid antigen test for army members and volunteers before the start of a mass test of Vienna's population in Austria. REUTERS/Leonhard Foeger



Rohingyas that will be shifted to Bhasan Char island are seen onboard a bus in Chattogram, Bangladesh. REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain



Asylum-seeker Ibrahim looks at the Sacre Coeur Cathedral from his room at the Hotel Avenir Montmartre in Paris, France. The hotel, deserted by tourists due to COVID-19 travel bans opened its 42 rooms to the city's homeless for 12 months with the help...MORE



A diver wearing Santa Claus costume swims in a large fish tank during an underwater performance at Sunshine Aquarium in Tokyo, Japan. REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon



Medical personnel prepare in the emergency room of the Maggiore di Lodi hospital as a second wave of the coronavirus hits the country, in Lodi, Italy, November 13, 2020. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



Soldiers at the U.S. Army Air Assault School conduct training while adhering to coronavirus recommendations, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. REUTERS/Bryan Woolston

CDC Shortens COVID-19
Quarantine Time From
14 To 7-10 Days



Women walk past a novel coronavirus testing site in Los Angeles, California, December 1, 2020. (Lucy Nicholson | Reuters)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

(CNN)The Director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Robert Redfield, informed Vice President Mike Pence and White House Coronavirus Task Force members on Tuesday that the CDC will soon issue new guidelines reducing the number of days close contacts should quarantine following exposure to a Covid-19 positive individual, two senior administration officials told CNN. The new guidelines will recommend close contacts of those infected with the coronavirus should quarantine for 7 to 10 days after exposure, down from the 14 days currently recommended, the official said. Individuals can end their quarantine after 7 days if they receive a negative test, or 10 days without getting tested. The CDC updated its definition of a close contact with a Covid-19 patient in late October to include multiple, brief exposures. The current definition includes exposures adding up to a total of 15 minutes spent six feet or closer to an infected person. Previously, the CDC defined a close contact as 15 minutes of continuous exposure to an infected individual. Redfield announced the forthcoming quarantine guidelines during a coronavirus task force meeting on Tuesday, the officials said, describing the

change as a data-driven decision that has been under review for weeks.



Director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Robert Redfield, One official said Pence has been pushing the CDC for months to review the guidelines. Health experts continued to stress the importance of communicating and implementing mitigation measures to decrease the alarming number of coronavirus cases across the country, the official said. There was no discussion of President Donald Trump getting involved in public messaging around those mitigation measures. Mitigation efforts include mask usage, social distancing, avoiding crowds and frequent hand-washing. (Courtesy www.cnn.com/) The CDC previously recommended that any-

one who was exposed to the coronavirus quarantine for 14 days. Dr. Henry Walke, the agency's Covid incident manager, said the CDC still recommends a 14-day quarantine "as the best way to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19." However, he said the agency has identified "two acceptable alternatives." The quarantine can end after 10 days if the person has not developed any symptoms and can end after just seven days if the asymptomatic person also tests negative for the virus, Walke said. He added that the sample for the negative test should be collected within 48 hours of the final day of quarantine.



"We continue to refine our guidance to prevent transmission and protect Americans," Walke said. "Reducing the length of quarantine may make it easier for people to follow critical public health action by reducing the economic hardship associated with a longer period, especially if they cannot work during that time." Walke added that local health officials can adjust the agency's recommendations to fit the situations of their jurisdictions. He said regardless of the length of quarantine, people should monitor their own symptoms for a full 14 days after an exposure. Dr. John Brooks, chief medical officer for CDC's Covid-response, said ending a quarantine after 10 days without a negative test leads to about 1% risk of spreading the virus to others, based on modeling by the CDC and outside researchers. After a seven-day quarantine with a negative test, there's about a 5% chance of spreading the virus, he added. The recommended quarantines apply to those deemed "close contacts" of Covid patients. The CDC defines a close contact as "someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset" or positive test result. The rationale for announcing the shortened quarantine options was based at least partly in garnering more compliance among the public,

Walke said. He added that the agency has heard reports from local public health departments of people exiting quarantine early after an exposure.



Dr. Henry Walke CDC COVID-19 incident manager.

"In a situation where cases are rising, that means that the number of contacts are rising, and the number of people who require quarantine is rising. That's a lot of burden, not just on the people who have to quarantine, but also on public health," he said. "We believe that if we can reduce the burden a little bit, accepting that it comes at a small cost, we make greater compliance overall with people." Public health specialists have been awaiting the change with "delighted anticipation," said Dr. Bill Schaffner, an epidemiologist at Vanderbilt University. The Wall Street Journal reported last week that the CDC was considering such a change. The original 14-day quarantine period was based on what scientists believed to be the lengthy coronavirus incubation period, during which symptoms are not yet present and it's difficult to detect the virus. Schaffner pointed out that the 14-day recommendation "was written before testing was widely available" and researchers have since learned more about the virus. "Several of us have thought for some time, that now that testing is available you could introduce that into the scheme of how to evaluate people who are in quarantine," he said, adding that this will help potentially exposed people return to work more quickly. "This is good for public health and good for the economy," he said, "and good for people's mental health." Saskia Popescu, an epidemiologist and biodefense professor at George Mason University, who reviewed the CDC's new guidance, said Wednesday it shows that the agency is "opting to look at this from a risk/benefit perspective." "Ultimately, what this approach means is that that we're recognizing the significant challeng-

es and burden that a 14 day quarantine entails," she said in an email to CNBC. "There's a better chance for success in having people comply with this."

‘Postpone holiday travel’

In addition to the adjusted quarantine recommendations, Walke also announced that the CDC is recommending against travel for the winter holidays.

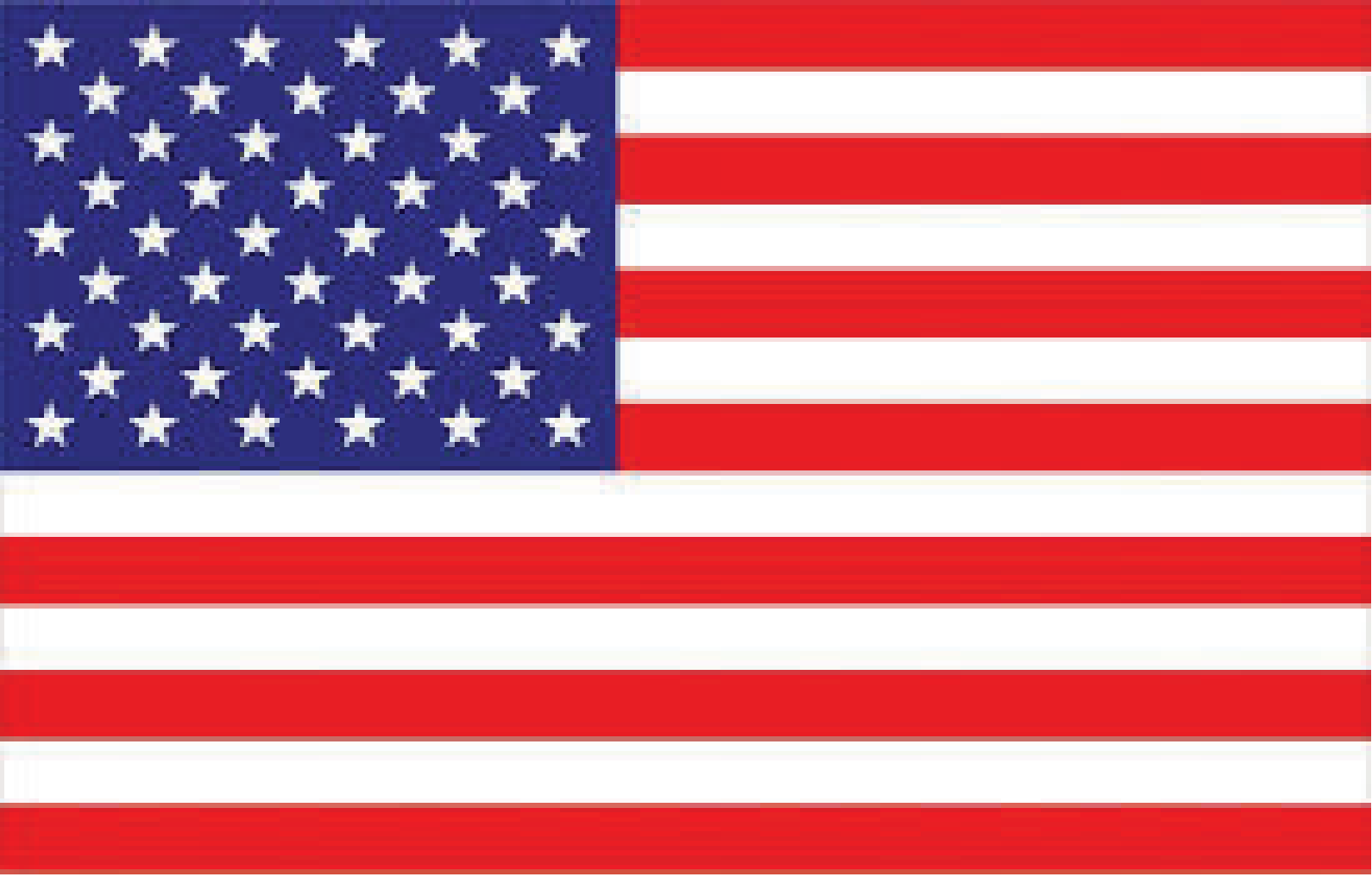


"CDC recommends that the best way to protect yourself and others is to postpone travel and stay home," Walke said. "If you do decide to travel, CDC recommends that travelers consider getting tested one to three days before travel and then again, three to five days after travel." Testing should be in conjunction with other risk-reduction protocols like a quarantine period, he added. Dr. Cindy Friedman, chief of the CDC's travelers health branch, added that the nation saw a lot of travelers over the week of Thanksgiving, which could exacerbate the outbreak. "Even if only a small percentage of those travelers were asymptotically infected, this can translate into hundreds of thousands of additional infections moving from one community to another," she said. "Cases are rising and the safest thing to do is to postpone holiday travel and stay home." CDC officials said that people ideally would still quarantine for the full 14 days, but that in an effort to boost compliance with quarantining and after "extensive modelling," they determined there was a low risk of people continuing to spread the virus in the final days of a quarantine. "Reducing the length of quarantine may make it easier for people to take this critical public health step," said Henry Walke, the CDC's COVID-19 incident manager. (Courtesy cnn.com and thehill.com)



美国入籍考试新增题库，
128题翻译和答案全在这里

美国移民局USCIS近日发布关于公民入籍考试的新政策，变化包括以下：
1)题库从原来的100题增加到128题；
2)考试题目从原来的10题增加到20题；
3)考试通过本来是只要答对6题，现在必须答对12题才能过关；
4)即使答对12题，你必须要完成全部20题。不像以前，你只要答对6题，考官就会停止考试；现在即使你答对了12题，你也必须完成总共20道题目；
对于英文好，美国宪法、历史与政府结构有了解的华人应考者来说，考题改革并不是大问题。但是有相当一部分年纪较大，英文也并不是第一语言的申请者来说，考题的难度增加与考题数目增加，无疑会对他们心理上造成影响。考试的时候容易引起紧张，那就会影响答题的质量。如何免去英文考试，用中文考试呢？
有一些申请者会问，我怎么样可以满足条件，免去我的英文考试，用我的本土语言进行考试的？一般满足以下要求的申请者，可以用中文进行考试：
1) 年龄满50岁，持有绿卡超过20年，可用中文考试；
2) 年龄满55岁，持有绿卡超过15年，可用中文考试；
3) 年龄满65岁，持有绿卡超过20年，可用中文考试；
但是以上几个条件，只是允许你用中文考试，但并不能免除你的考试，你依旧是需要参加公民入籍考试和面谈的。
只有一种情况下，你可以免去公民考试：就是你具有心理、生理或精神疾病，并且在过去和将来可能持续12个月以上，以及这种疾病会对你的认知和读写能力造成实质性的影响。在这种情况下，你可以免去考试，但是你依旧不可以免去面谈。
所以从以上要求看，移民局对于公民入籍考试的要求还是挺严格的，没有人可以随便免去考试或者面谈而直接公民入籍。
哪些常见疏忽会造成公民入籍被拒呢？
有些人觉得自己满足了所有条件，肯定没问题，但是依然被拒，而往往被拒的理由是他们意想不到的。
常见的被拒的理由是：
1)没有登记服兵役 (Selective Service Registration)。在美国任何18到26岁之间的年轻人是需要登记服兵役。你不需要真正的服役，但是需要登记。如果你没有登记的话，你在之后的公民入



籍是会被拒的。
2)不满足良好道德标准 (Good Moral Character)，有些人觉得只要自己不作奸犯科，就不会影响到公民入籍。但是现在的移民政策越来越严格，比如你具有酒驾两次以上的记录，也会会被拒绝公民入籍申请。
3)没有满足居住条件 (Residency Requirement)。公民入籍考试的居住条件是指，你要在过去5年至少30个月以上是在居住在美国，单次离开不能超过六个月，以及递交申请前三个月都是必须居住在美国。很多人觉得我在递交公民申请N-400之前都满足了这些条件，我就可以通过。其实并不是这样。对于居住条件的要求，是必须在你最终公民入籍批准之前都必须保持的，意

思就是你在考试之前的三个月，你也必须居住在美国。
当然，以上只是一些容易被人疏忽的地方，在实际进行公民入籍申请时，还是不可以掉以轻心。很多人觉得我已经拿到绿卡那么多年，转公民应该没什么问题。
其实事实并不是这样，转公民有比较严格的要求，尤其在现在严峻的移民政策下。如果有任何问题，可咨询专业的律师，避免绕弯路，因为公民入籍的时间一般要1年左右，如果因为一点疏忽最后被拒，那就得不偿失了。
最近美国移民局USCIS，对于公民入籍考试题库进行了新的变革，由原来的100题增加到128题，但都是英文版本，我们将其翻译成中文版本，

方便公民申请者更好的阅读和记忆。只要你背熟，基本考试不会有问题。
顺便要提醒一下，考试由原来的10题增加到20题，依旧需要60%的通过率才可以通过考试。所以你本来只要答对6题，现在你必须答对12题才可以通过考试。所以希望所有公民入籍的申请者，可以复习看以下中英文版本的题库，争取一次通过。
题库网址: <https://www.meifang8.com/uslife/meiguorujikaoshixinzengtiku-128tifanyihed-aanquanzaizheli> (文章来源: 美房网)