

White House Will Unveil Cyber Executive Actions At A Summit This Week

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Legislative Activity

This Week's Hearings:

- Wednesday, February 11: The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing titled "The Connected World: Examining the Internet of Things."
- Thursday, February 12: The House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies will host a hearing titled "Emerging Threats and Technologies to Protect the Homeland."
- Thursday, February 12: The House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education will hold a hearing titled "How Emerging Technology Affects Student Privacy."
- Thursday, February 12: The House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology and Subcommittee on Oversight will hold a joint hearing titled "Can Americans Trust the Privacy and Security of their Information on HealthCare.gov?"

Regulatory Activity

White House Will Unveil Cyber Executive Actions at a Summit this Week

On Friday, February 13, the White House will hold its Summit on Cybersecurity and Consumer Protection at Stanford University. President Obama will be speaking at the Summit and plans to issue a new Executive Order focusing on ways to increase cybersecurity information sharing between the private sector and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The executive action will likely expand the current work that DHS's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) does to include a new concept of Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations (ISAO), which was briefly previewed by the President last month. As currently discussed, ISAOs would be designed to share information across multiple industry sectors

to supplement the work of the current network of Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs). According to press reports from government officials, the executive action is expected to create a network of ISAOs that would be managed by DHS in the beginning and eventually would become a privately-run entity. Several government officials and industry representatives have said that the President's action will represent a step forward to improving the current information sharing platforms but they also recognize that information sharing legislation is still needed.

In addition to the Summit on Friday, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will hold a half-day workshop on Thursday focused on the technical aspects of consumer security. The Office of Science and Technology Policy will also host a meeting leading up to the Summit on Thursday focused on cybersecurity workforce development.

White House Blog Highlights Future Action on Cyber Risk Management

Last week, White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Michael Daniel wrote a [blog post](#) on how companies can strengthen their cyber risk management and the role of the federal government in incentivizing stronger cybersecurity practices in the private sector. He notes in the post that the White House believes "the market offers the most effective incentives for the private sector to adopt strong cybersecurity practices," but also stated that the Obama Administration will continue to work in a variety of areas to support these efforts by streamlining regulations, investing in cybersecurity research and development, and updating federal procurement policies and practice. Daniel wrote that the White House is working with federal agencies and critical infrastructure to identify regulations that are excessively burdensome, conflicting, or ineffective and will release a report on the findings no later than February 2016. Additionally, the White House plans to release a report this spring on the key priorities for cybersecurity research and development over the next three to five years.

The blog post also noted that the White House will not pursue public recognition as a means of incentivizing the private sector to adopt cybersecurity best practices or the NIST Cybersecurity Framework given that this could take away from the voluntary nature of the Framework. While Daniel did not mention liability protection as an incentive for greater information sharing in the blog post, it is still a possible incentive that the White House would support given that it was also included in the information sharing legislative proposal that the President released last month.

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