Canadian Security Intelligence Service | **Service canadien du renseignement de sécurité**

NEED TO KNOW

Need to Know is an unclassified open-source, multi-platform media collation, produced by CSIS **Academic Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement**, on issues considered relevant to Canada's broad national security interests. The objective is to highlight and share a diverse array of perspectives on Canadian and global security matters, with a focus on emerging developments and sources of expertise across disciplines. Inclusion of a document, source, expert or event does not constitute endorsement by, or affiliation with, CSIS.

18 May 2023

## Cyber Operations and Defences Today

Bits versus Bombs: Observations on Russian Offensive Cyber Operations in Ukraine – The author provides an assessment of destructive cyber operations in the Ukraine conflict to date, asserting that effective Ukrainian defences coupled with the resource-intensive nature of offensive cyber attacks and a Russian focus on utilizing cyber actions to obtain actionable intelligence all explain the fact that the anticipated 'cyber Armageddon' has yet to materialize, *International Center for Defence and Security*. Read here.

Ukraine Cyber War One Year On: An International Law Case Study – The author provides an overview of the application of international law in cyber-space in the context of the war against Ukraine. The author confirms that actions to-date constitute cyber war and offers some insights into how to measure actions and assess proportionality of counter-measures, *Directions Cyber Digital Europe*. Read here.
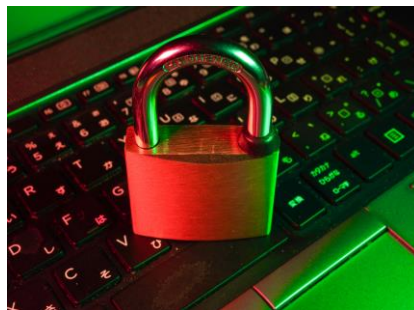
How North Korea's Hackers Bankroll Its Quest for the Bomb – This report provides an in-depth analysis of the linkages between North Korea's cyber and nuclear programs and details recent shifts in focus by North Korean cyber teams from South Korean government departments to international banks and infrastructure, *Foreign Policy*. Read here.

PODCASTS OF NOTE

Irregular Warfare
This podcast episode delves into the role that cyberwarfare and digital information operations have played to date in the Ukraine conflict.

▶ **LISTEN HERE**

Spycast
What do India's cyber and intelligence operations look like? Learn more in this conversation with a former member of India's National Security Council.

▶ **LISTEN HERE**

Wired
Do recent Pentagon leaks presage a new era of near-real time-revelations? This podcast episode examines the possibilities.

▶ **LISTEN HERE**

Canada

Wading Murky Waters: Subsea Communications Cables and Responsible State Behaviour, This report on subsea communications cables highlights the necessity of strengthening the resilience of this vital infrastructure in the international information and communications technology ecosystem, including physical and cyber protections, *UNIDIR*. Read here.

See also: **The Vulkan Files – Secret trove offers rare look into Russian cyberwar ambitions**, *Washington Post*. Read here.

Challenges & Assets of Intelligence Access

The Promise and Danger of Declassifying Intelligence for Effect – This author uses recent declassification of intelligence in the context of the Ukraine conflict as a case study to assess the benefits and drawbacks of tackling the overclassification that has long been an irritant to US policymakers. He advocates declassification when it offers, the "ability to observe, orient, decide, and act faster and more effectively than the adversary" *U.S. Naval Institute*. Read here.

The Challenges of Conducting Open Source Research on China – This this guide provides an overview of some of the challenges facing open source researchers investigating China, focusing primarily on those outside China. To better understand the challenges of collecting OSINT on China, the authors interviewed a dozen China researchers who specialise in technology or human rights, *Bellingcat*. Read here.

See also: **Open-source intelligence**, this article provides a useful primer on the categories of OSINT and the role for open-data portals in supporting OSINT, *European Commission*. Read here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12-14 June 2023	**Toronto Machine Learning Summit** Toronto Machine Learning Summit Register here. ($) In-person and virtual attendance options.
13-14 July 2023	**2023 Intelligence and National Security Summit** Intelligence and National Security Alliance (USA) Register here. ($)
28-29 September 2023	**Trust and Safety Research Conference** Stanford University (USA) Find out more here.
ICYMI	**Book Event: Open Source Investigations in the Age of Google** Center for Intelligence and Security Studies Access here.

DIVERSIONS

So a moose walks into a bar…except in this case, the saloon was a movie theatre and the moose just had a hankering for some popcorn. Watch the video on CBC here.

Feedback? Please email AO-LR@smtp.gc.ca

Canada