



Open Source Media Summary

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US MOVES FORWARD WITH PLAN FOR NATIONAL RESEARCH SECURITY CENTRE

Richard Hudson | Science|Business | July 25, 2024

In its continuing push to tighten research security, the US government awarded \$67 million to two consortia led by the University of Washington and Texas A&M University to set up a national organisation helping US researchers safeguard their research. The new SECURE Center, to be hosted in Seattle, is intended to be a kind of one-stop-shop for US research organisations and small businesses looking for guidance on security. Its creation was mandated by Congress in the CHIPS & Science Act of 2022, as part of a growing effort to prevent unauthorised leaks of sensitive research to other countries – especially China. The award, announced 24 July by the National Science Foundation, grants \$50 million over five years to a consortium of ten universities led by the University of Washington, which since 2014 has built up a large centre for security and safety research under a professor there, Mark Haselkorn. An additional \$17 million grant goes to Texas A&M to provide services analysing potential security risks and developing tools to manage them. The awards are the latest step in a steady ratcheting-up of university security systems started in the Trump administration, and continued by President Biden. Last week, the White House published guidance on how it intends US funding agencies and their grant recipients to handle security.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW WILL THE NEW US RESEARCH SECURITY CENTRE WORK?

Richard Hudson | Science|Business | July30, 2024

Last week the US announced a \$67 million effort to boost security at American research organisations. But it intends to aid security with a difference: working in collaboration with researchers and administrators – and open to cooperation with allied countries. “We are going to co-design what the community wants and needs to enhance security at its institutions,” says Mark Haselkorn, a University of Washington professor and one of the project leaders. Rather than simply dictating security measures, he says, the new National Science Foundation-supported SECURE Center’s message to researchers will be, “Let’s define the problems, let’s design the solutions, and together we’ll make them happen. That is a radically different approach.” It will also aim to assure security doesn’t happen at the cost of international scientific cooperation. For instance, he says, CRISPR gene editing - a foundational technology for vaccines and drugs – wouldn’t exist if there hadn’t been transatlantic cooperation among the scientists developing it.

Read the full article [here](#).

NSA PUBLISHES ENDURING SECURITY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND ACADEMIA TO ENGAGE STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

National Security Agency/Central Security Service | Press Release | July 30, 2024

As technology continues to develop at an increasingly rapid pace, the U.S. needs to participate in and position itself as the leader in the creation of global standards, according to an Enduring Security Framework (ESF) report released today by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The report, "Recommendations for Increasing U.S. Participation & Leadership in Standards Development," recognizes both economic reasons and national security concerns requiring increased U.S. participation in standards development organizations (SDOs). U.S. participation in standards is critical to protecting the security of the American people, expanding economic opportunity, and defending democratic values.

Read the full article [here](#).

IN ACADEMIA RESEARCH DATA IS SENSITIVE, HERE'S HOW WE ARE HELPING REDUCE SECURITY RISKS

Clara Sherwood | U.S. Department of State | July 26, 2024

Academic and research organizations have made, and continue to make, tremendous contributions to humanity. These contributions are underpinned by our values—academic openness, transparency, and reciprocity—and are often facilitated by international research cooperation. International research partnerships are vital to the United States, and the ability for institutions to work together freely and openly depends upon the capability to protect and trust research ecosystems. Yet we've learned in the past decade that our competitors with different views can exploit the very openness that underpins the strength of our academic and research community and drives our scientific progress. Some state actors are engaged in clear, well-organized efforts to divert the fruits of our research and innovation to advance their military objectives to the detriment of the very institutions and countries with whom they partner.

Read the full article [here](#).

WHITE HOUSE ISSUES NEW SECURITY RULES FOR GOVERNMENT-FUNDED RESEARCH

Lindsay McKenzie | American Institute of Physics | July 30, 2024

The White House published long-awaited guidelines this month that will govern efforts to ensure research institutions funded by federal agencies take adequate measures to protect their work from theft or misappropriation. The guidelines will require institutions receiving \$50 million or more per year in federal R&D funding to operate research security programs that meet certain standards regarding staff training and cybersecurity. The programs must cover four main areas:

- Research security training: Covered institutions must certify that they have implemented a broad security training program for researchers, with individuals taking either the training modules developed by the National Science Foundation, future training programs developed by federal agencies, or training developed internally. The training must include examples of "known improper or illegal transfer" of R&D while also conveying the value of international collaboration in research.

Read the full article [here](#).

RESEARCH SECURITY PROGRAM GUIDELINES: MORE WORK FOR FEDERALLY-FUNDED RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS -UNIVERSITIES AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS MUST IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS FOR CYBERSECURITY, FOREIGN TRAVEL SECURITY, RESEARCH SECURITY TRAINING, AND EXPORT CONTROL TRAINING

Lauren Colantonio, William Crawford, and William Ferreira | JDSUPRA | July 26, 2024

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has issued long-awaited Guidelines for Research Security Programs at Covered Institutions (“Guidelines”), which outline how federal research agencies must require “covered institutions” – including certain institutions of higher education and nonprofit research institutions – to certify their implementation of programs related to cybersecurity, foreign travel security, research security, and export control. Below we summarize the new Guidelines, the entities affected, and the timeline for implementation.

Read the full article [here](#).

UNIVERSITY'S COUNTERINTELLIGENCE WORK EARNS FEDERAL AWARD

Travis Williams | Virginia Tech News | July 23, 2024

For the second time in five years, Virginia Tech has been recognized by a federal agency for its prominent role in the nation’s counterintelligence efforts. In June, the university was among five out of more than 10,000 eligible organizations in the United States to receive the 2023 Jack Donnelly Award for Excellence in Counterintelligence. Given out annually by the U.S. Department of Defense’s Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, the award recognizes companies and institutions with the best counterintelligence results and cooperation in support of the U.S. government’s efforts to detect and stop foreign entities from stealing national security information. “This award is validation that what we’re doing matters and is working,” said John Talerico III, director of the Office of Export and Secure Research Compliance and university facility security officer. “Our processes are not only helping to protect our personnel and intellectual property, but ultimately helping to protect our country.”

Read the full article [here](#).

DOJ’S SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT OVER CHINA FUNDING DISCLOSURE FAILURES: TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

Paul R. Moore | RealClear Education | July 29, 2024

America has often created blue ribbon commissions to determine the causes of cataclysmic events like the 9/11 attack, JFK’s assassination, Pearl Harbor, Watergate, the Challenger explosion, and the 2008 “Great Recession.” Another investigative commission, precipitated by an increasingly likely military conflict with China, may be closer than we care to imagine. Despite our domestic political preoccupations, China’s People’s Liberation Army is preparing for conflict with the U.S. and has been actively engaging in hostile military acts against the Philippines and Japan, even as it has repeatedly violated Taiwan’s air and maritime space. Admiral John Aquilino, Commander of U.S. forces in the Indo-Pacific, recently testified that China’s increasingly aggressive actions, with Russian military support, have created “the most dangerous [situation] I’ve seen in 40 years in uniform.”

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA IS CLOSING THE A.I. GAP WITH THE UNITED STATES

Meaghan Tobin and Cade Metz | The New York Times | July 25, 2024

At the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai this month, start-up founder Qu Dongqi showed off a video he had recently posted online. It displayed an old photograph of a woman with two toddlers. Then the photo sprang to life as the woman lifted the toddlers up in her arms and they laughed with surprise. The video was created by A.I. technology from the Chinese internet company Kuaishou. The technology was reminiscent of a video generator, called Sora, that the American start-up OpenAI unveiled this year. But unlike Sora, it was available to the general public. "My American friends still can't use Sora," Mr. Qu said. "But we already have better solutions here." While the United States has had a head start on A.I. development, China is catching up. In recent weeks, several Chinese companies have unveiled A.I. technologies that rival the leading American systems. And these technologies are already in the hands of consumers, businesses and independent software developers across the globe.

Read the full article [here](#).

TRIAL BEGINS FOR US CITIZEN ACCUSED OF ACTING AS CHINESE AGENT

Reuters | Voice of America (VOA) | July 29, 2024

A former university professor in China went on trial on Monday in Brooklyn on charges he acted as a Chinese agent by monitoring U.S.-based activists opposed to Beijing's Communist government at the direction of intelligence officials in China. Federal prosecutors said Shujun Wang, a naturalized U.S. citizen, exploited his leadership role in New York communities supporting democracy in China to collect information on dissidents, and shared it with four officials in China's Ministry of State Security (MSS), an intelligence service. Wang, who emigrated to the United States in 1994, was arrested in March 2022. He pleaded not guilty to four counts including acting as a foreign agent without notifying the U.S. attorney general and lying to U.S. authorities. Prosecutors said Wang's scheme ran from 2005 to 2022. The U.S. Department of Justice has in recent years cracked down on what it calls "transnational repression" by U.S. adversaries such as China and Iran. The term refers to the surveillance, intimidation and, in some cases, attempted repatriation or murder of activists against those governments.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE RUTHLESS POLITICIZATION OF SCIENCE FUNDING

Robert P. George and Anna I. Krylov | The Chronicle of Higher Education | July 25, 2024

How should taxpayer money earmarked for science funding be used? This is a \$90-billion-per-year question. The money is entrusted to federal funding agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Each agency has a well-defined mission. The NSF focuses on fundamental research; the DOE on energy; the NIH on health; and NASA on space exploration. Scientists submit research proposals, and the agencies decide which proposals to fund and which to decline. The traditional, time-tested criteria have been scientific merit, the track record of the investigators, and alignment with the agency's mission. Decision making relies on a peer-review process involving reviewers with appropriate expertise, clear guidelines for assessment, and avoidance of personal or professional conflicts of interest.

Read the full article [here](#).

EFFECTIVE US GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CHINA'S INFORMATION INFLUENCE

Kenton Thibaut | Atlantic Council | July 30, 2024

China's global influence operations have received increasing attention in the national security community. Numerous congressional hearings, media reports, and academic and industry findings have underscored China's increased use and resourcing of foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) tactics in its covert operations both in the United States and abroad. In response, US government offices the Foreign Malign Influence Center (FMIC), the Global Engagement Center (GEC), and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), among others, have made strides in raising awareness of the issue and charting pathways to increase the resilience of the US information ecosystem to foreign influence operations itself. Across the government and nongovernment sectors alike, there is considerable variation regarding the definition and scope of information manipulation.

Read the full article [here](#).

RECALIBRATED RESPONSES NEEDED TO A GLOBAL RESEARCH LANDSCAPE IN FLUX

Tommy Shih | Taylor and Francis | August 2, 2022

When engaging in international collaboration, researchers and research institutions have to relate to a great range of differences in legislation, scientific practices, incentive systems, and cultural norms. The research landscape has become even more complex in the last decade, and the gray zones at the intersections of a diverse set of institutional contexts may be used to push boundaries. The focus of earlier efforts seeking to harmonize views on scientific integrity in an international context was more limited. Moreover, the guiding research norms have been primarily shaped by a US-European science duopoly. The rise of China has, however, created a multipolar research landscape. As a response to recent geopolitical developments and changes in the global research landscape, guidelines are starting to emerge, especially in the West, that seek to guide research behaviors in a turbulent world. These guidelines collectively identify integral issues to consider, such as research integrity, academic freedom, export control, national security, data security, and intellectual property rights.

Read the full article [here](#).

INSIDE OSI'S FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL TECH TRANSFER

Thomas Brading | United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations | July 30, 2024

In the heart of Silicon Valley, the Office of Special Investigations operates on the front lines of the global technology, safeguarding national security amid international competition. This is where Special Agent Raleigh Wilson, OSI National Security Det. 818, traded the dusty outposts of Kandahar for the tech world of Palo Alto. Yet, the 10-year OSI veteran said beneath the polished exterior of the Bay Area, the stakes are just as high as anything he experienced overseas. But today, Wilson's battleground is from inside coffee shops, college campuses and office buildings scattered across the Bay Area, where the enemies don't fight with bullets and bombs, but use Venture capital, private equity and other foreign-origin private investment to harm U.S. economic and national security interests. "The setting here is different, but the essence of our mission hasn't changed," Wilson said, reflecting on his 2013 deployment where he conducted negotiations with influential figures in the Middle East, similar to engaging with key stakeholders in Silicon Valley.

Read the full article [here](#).

HUAWEI'S TIES TO DC-BASED NONPROFIT FACE DEEPENING US HOUSE PROBE

Kate O'Keeffe and Daniel Flatley | Bloomberg | July 30, 2024

House lawmakers broadened their investigation into Washington nonprofit Optica's ties to Huawei Technologies Co. after Bloomberg News documented the scientific society's decades-long relationship with the sanctioned Chinese telecommunications giant. In a letter to Optica Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Rogan, the top Republican and Democrat on the House Science, Space and Technology Committee slammed the group's partnership with Huawei as "deeply strange" and said Optica's responses to their queries appeared inconsistent with Bloomberg's latest findings, published in June. "We are renewing our previous questions and document requests as well as broadening our inquiry to encompass additional concerns," Committee Chairman Frank Lucas and ranking member Zoe Lofgren wrote. Among the July 29 letter's requests are all of Optica's communications with or about Huawei.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The Research and Innovation Security and Competitiveness Institute



USEFUL RESOURCES

SAFEGUARDING OUR FUTURE

Office of the Director of National Intelligence | July 23, 2024

These unclassified, "Safeguarding Our Future " bulletins provide a brief overview of a specific foreign intelligence threat, as well as impacts of that threat and steps for mitigation.

View the full resource [here](#).

STATEMENT ON RESEARCH SECURITY

Government of Canada | July 10, 2024

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) is Canada's largest federal research and development organization and is committed to advancing research and supporting innovation in the interests of Canada. The NRC's expertise and related partnerships are managed with integrity, in an open and collaborative manner. While openness and collaboration are the cornerstone of discovery, the research we conduct, the work we fund, and the support we provide to firms can be attractive targets for those seeking to steal, use, and adapt it for their own priorities and gains. It is important to take reasonable and risk-based measures to safeguard our research, and the projects and firms we fund from potential interference, misappropriation or misalignment with the interests of Canada. Using a risk-based approach to assess our interactions will help ensure decisions are risk-appropriate, measured, and thoughtful.

View the full resource [here](#).

BETRAYED

Vimeo | April 26, 2013

At a meeting with members of the Counterintelligence Unit of the FBI we were given a mission: "Don't give us a training film. We want a real movie...", one that engages intelligence professionals at an emotional and professional level – and helps to cause real change in counterintelligence practice. The result is Betrayed, an award-winning dramatic film that has been viewed by a million members of the intelligence community, including the FBI, State Department, CIA, and White House. It has been widely praised for its ground-breaking approach to changing attitudes and behaviors within the intelligence community.

View the full resource [here](#).

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