



Open Source Media Summary

August 29, 2024

ROUTERS FROM CHINA-BASED TP-LINK A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT, US LAWMAKERS CLAIM

James Reddick | The Record | August 16, 2024

Two members of Congress are calling on the Commerce Department to investigate the cybersecurity risks posed by Wi-Fi routers from Chinese company TP-Link Technologies. In a letter sent this week to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Reps. John Moolenaar (R-MI) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) claimed TP-Link's routers have been found to have an "unusual degree of vulnerabilities." They called on the department to respond with findings on the company's security risks by the end of August, and to determine if TP-Link products should be restricted in the U.S. Amid China's "increasingly draconian data protectionist and national security-focused legal regime," the lawmakers wrote, "companies like TP-Link are required to provide data to the PRC [People's Republic of China] government and otherwise comply with the demands of its national security apparatus." The congressmen, who lead the House Select Committee on China, cited the cyber activity by the Chinese APT group Volt Typhoon as a reason for concern around home and office routers. A hallmark of the group's hacking campaign against U.S. critical infrastructure is the infiltration of home routers for the purpose of launching other attacks.

Read the full article [here](#).

US HISTORIAN FOUND GUILTY OF WORKING AS CHINESE SPY

Jane Tang and Tara McKelvey | Radio Free Asia (RFA) | August 7, 2024

Shujun Wang, a dapper 76-year-old Chinese American author, was found guilty today of espionage after a 7-day trial in federal court that exposed a widespread and elaborate effort by the Chinese government to infiltrate the United States and to influence the public's views of the Chinese Communist Party. A jury of six men and six women, including three who speak Mandarin Chinese, deliberated for about six hours before finding him guilty of acting as an unregistered agent of a foreign government, making false statements to federal authorities, and using personal contact information of others in a way that assisted in a crime. He faces up to 25 years in prison. Wang is to be sentenced on Jan. 9, 2025. Dressed in a dark gray suit with pink pinstripes, Wang closed his eyes as he listened to the verdict through a translating device held to his ear. Outside of court, he continued to express his innocence of the charges. "This verdict feels unjust to me," Wang told RFA in Chinese as he exited the courthouse. He said he had not yet decided whether to appeal. When asked about his next steps, he smiled and said that instead of writing a book about the pro-democracy movement, he plans to write one about life in American prisons that he would title "An American Prison Memoir." "I'm a writer. Writing a book is easy for me," he said.

Read the full article [here](#).

PLANS DELAYED FOR REGISTER OF HOSTILE STATE AGENTS

Jennifer McKiernan | BBC News | August 20, 2024

Plans for a register of foreign lobbyists aimed at protecting the UK's national security have been delayed. The scheme would compel those working for a foreign power or body to declare their lobbying activities - failure to do so could be punishable by up to two years in prison. Plans were included in the National Security Act 2023 which came into force at the end of last year, and at the time the Home Office said the scheme was expected to begin this year. However, the Home Office says "it is no longer expected that the scheme's requirements will come into force in 2024". Asked about the delay, a spokeswoman said: "It is, and always will be, an absolute priority to protect the UK against foreign interference. "The Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS) will further strengthen our national security whilst maintaining the UK as an international hub for business." A government official guided the BBC towards the changeover of government after the election as having caused delays, with planned regulations needing sign-offs from the new ministers.

Read the full article [here](#).

EXCLUDING NATIONALITIES FROM RESEARCH COLLABORATION 'INEFFECTIVE'

John Ross | Times Higher Education | August 24, 2024

Research bans targeting particular nationalities are counterproductive, a security expert has warned, amid reports that an Australian university campus has forbidden its academics from collaborating with Chinese researchers. Brendan Walker-Munro said that while universities needed to take research security "very seriously", the approach reportedly adopted by UNSW Canberra – a capital city campus of UNSW Sydney – was ill advised. "These types of nationality bans do not work," he said, citing the China Initiative, a US Justice Department crackdown on perceived Chinese spies in American research. It was abandoned in 2022 amid failed prosecutions and accusations of racial profiling. "Just saying we will not collaborate with China...sends some very dangerous messages. The nationality of the individual shouldn't necessarily matter. What matters is their risk level." UNSW Canberra hosts the Australian Defence Force Academy, which educates military recruits. According to the ABC, a recent internal message advised that collaborative research projects involving "academics affiliated with Chinese universities" would "not be supported".

Read the full article [here](#).

U.S. STARTUPS SHOULD BE WARY OF KNOWLEDGE THEFT DISGUISED AS INVESTMENT

Sabri Ben-Achour and Alex Schroeder | MARKETPLACE | August 22, 2024

Foreign governments are increasingly using venture capital investment to spy on U.S. companies and pilfer their intellectual property, or IP. That's according to the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, an agency of the federal government. Private investment from overseas is vital to sustaining U.S. startups and innovation, but it's also a method used by other countries — primarily China, but also Russia, for example — to harm the U.S. economy and compromise national security. Michael Casey, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, discussed the problem with "Marketplace Morning Report" host Sabri Ben-Achour. The following is an edited transcript of their conversation.

Read the full article [here](#).

TEACHING ABROAD IS AN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE: ASK TIM WALZ

Ryan M. Allen | University World News | August 12, 2024

The international education sector often champions people-to-people exchanges by sending students abroad, but teachers are an important part of this process. Tim Walz's political ascendancy reminds us just how foundational teaching abroad can be to an individual or even a nation. Walz, the current governor of Minnesota, was recently named as the vice-presidential running mate to Kamala Harris in the United States presidential election. He is also a former teacher, including a year spent teaching abroad in China. When Walz graduated from Chadron State College in 1989, he accepted a position through WorldTeach at Foshan No 1 High School located in Foshan, Guangdong, a province just north of Hong Kong. During this period, while China was still opening up to foreigners, there were especially few Americans teaching there at the time. The experience had a profound impact on Walz. Upon returning, he stayed in education, becoming a local teacher and coach. But he and his wife remained connected to China. The couple started an organisation called Educational Travel Adventures that brought American students on study tours to China.

Read the full article [here](#).

SCIENCE AND THE NATION-STATE: WHAT CHINA'S EXPERIENCE REVEALS ABOUT THE ROLE OF POLICY IN SCIENCE

Caroline S. Wagner | Oxford Academic Science and Public Policy | June 17, 2024

China's rapid rise and spectacular growth in science capacity reopens a discussion about the relationship between science and the nation-state. Literature suggests that science thrives within a democratic system and that scientific activities tend to have a liberalizing effect on governments. Neither of these phenomena appears evident in China's case. Three policies, present in the earliest days of the growth of modern science, ones in common with other nations, factor into China's science policy: (1) policies enabling protection of intellectual property, (2) encouraging mobility and skills development, and (3) government procurement of science and technology, especially through military purchases. Using Graham's interactionist model, I suggest that policies instituted by the state-created conditions for emergence of modern science.

Read the full article [here](#).

RAMPANT NATIONALISM IS UNDERMINING CHINA'S 'THREE WARFARES'

Weilong (David) Kong | The Diplomat | August 23, 2024

In two "regrettable incidents" this summer, several U.S. and Japanese nationals fell victim to frenzied stabbing attacks in China, resulting in one Chinese woman being killed while saving a school bus full of Japanese children from the assailant. While some in the country pushed for her to be posthumously granted the title of "model hero," others resented her for being a "traitor" who "foiled revenge on the Japanese." These violent outbursts of xenophobia and the conflicted public reception have raised concerns about China's rampant nationalism. As the government scrambles to curtail online extremism, media-fueled nationalist fervor continues to permeate Chinese social life. From proclaiming Chinese cultural superiority by dismissing Western history as fake, to blatantly promoting xenophobia and antisemitism, nationalist zeal is not only captivating but profitable in the age of social media.

Read the full article [here](#).

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IS A THREAT TO AUSTRALIA—INCLUDING DIASPORA COMMUNITIES

Chris Taylor | Australian Strategic Policy Institute | August 22, 2024

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) has confirmed publicly that Iran isn't the only foreign power interfering with a diaspora community in Australia. Responding to a question on whether India was similarly engaged (following a media report), ASIO Director-General Mike Burgess told ABC's Insiders on 11 August 'there is a range of countries that [commit foreign interference in Australia], not just Iran, many countries that would surprise your viewers. When [ASIO] find it we deal with it effectively.' I'll take Burgess at his word that those countries would surprise, as I have a suitably vivid imagination. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has previously confirmed interference by both the Chinese and Cambodian governments, and former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull specifically referred to reports of Chinese covert activities when introducing foreign interference laws in 2017.

Read the full article [here](#).

US ENTRY HORROR TRIGGERS COMPLAINTS FROM STUDENTS

Hou Chenchen | China Daily Global | August 26, 2024

An increasing number of Chinese students and tech professionals are expressing their alarm on social media about being harassed in what they described as a "small dark room" at the secondary inspection areas of immigration and border authorities in the United States. The trend has sparked heightened concerns among international students about traveling to the US, in turn fueling calls for the US to halt the revocation of legally obtained visas and stemming the disruption to people-to-people exchanges. Chinese student Chen Guo (not his real name) began his journey to Boston, Massachusetts, in 2022 after he was accepted by Harvard Medical School.

Read the full article [here](#).

OPTICA CEO DEPARTS AMID PROBES INTO SOCIETY'S LINKS TO HUAWEI

Kate O'Keefe | Bloomberg | August 26, 2024

The leader of Washington-based scientific society Optica and the head of its foundation have left the group amid investigations into its decades-long alliance with sanctioned Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies Co. Optica Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Rogan and Chad Stark, who ran the group's foundation, are no longer with the organization, according to an internal email seen by Bloomberg News. Their departures come after Bloomberg reported how Optica had cultivated ties with Huawei for years despite national-security concerns around the company. The departures were linked to Rogan and Stark's work with Huawei, according to one person familiar with the matter.

Read the full article [here](#).

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USEFUL RESOURCES

EXPORT CONTROLS APPLYING TO ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Liza Tobin, Addis Goldman, and Katherine Kurata | GOV.UK | August 2, 2024

This guidance is for academics or those doing postgraduate research in fields where there is a high risk it could be used for military purposes. This includes the development, production, use or delivery of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

It explains:

- how to assess if the UK's export controls apply
- when your research might be exempt
- how to check whether you need an export licence

Read the full article [here](#).

BYSTANDER ENGAGEMENT

National Counterintelligence and Security Center | May 2024

National Insider Threat Awareness Month (NITAM) 2023 focused on bystander engagement. As we plan and prepare for NITAM 2024 we wanted to review and highlight major themes from NITAM 2023. What is a bystander? Someone who witnesses concerning behaviors but may not take action to help mitigate the problem. What is bystander engagement? The concept whereby an individual is aware of concerning behaviors, knows how to act on those concerns, and takes appropriate action. Many organizations have established processes and training to encourage personnel to be more proactive and engage appropriately.

View the full resource [here](#).

ACADEMIC SOLICITATION

Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency

WHAT IS ACADEMIC SOLICITATION?

DCSA defines academic solicitation as the use of students, professors, scientists, or researchers as collectors improperly attempting to obtain sensitive or classified information. Placing academics at, and requesting to collaborate with, U.S. research institutions under the guise of legitimate research in order to access developing technologies and cutting edge research. These attempts can include requests for, or arrangement of, peer or scientific board reviews of academic papers or presentations; requests to study or consult with faculty members; and requests for and access to software and dual-use technology.

View the full resource [here](#).

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