Tips and Trends from ICJE

From ICJE, Inc. <jimrechel@icje.ccsend.com>
Date Mon 12/23/2024 10:25 PM
To Phillip Calvert <PCalvert@faulkner.edu>

Monthly News & Updates December 2024

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Light Unto Our World

Christmas is a time when Christians commemorate the birth of Christ, and during the season we celebrate with the giving of gifts to family and friends. There is no better feeling than seeing the light of joy in the faces of those receiving a gift that touches their heart.

It also a time to reflect, to challenge ourselves with the question "Am I being the light God expects me to be?"

Is the life I lead one that provides the spirit of Christmas, one that lights the path for others to walk as Christ expects.

To navigate darkened paths, I generally grab my phone and turn on the flashlight feature, or for more light, I might use a high-power flashlight or lantern.

The Christmas season reminds me that we are not asked to ***carry*** the light of Christ, but to ***be*** the light of Christ for those who do not know Him.

May your light shine brightly this Christmas and throughout the New Year!

May God bless each of you,

Jim Rechel
ICJE Newsletter Editor
jimrechel@icje.org

Please feel free to email comments or suggestions anytime!

Thanks, Jim

Society News

Retail Employees and Bodycams

Retail theft, shoplifting, customer conflicts and many other experiences are driving retailers to explore creative solutions. One concept that TJMaxx,Walmart and other retailers are exploring is the use of bodycams worn by employees, apparently with a small screen monitor included in the equipment worn by certain store employees. The theory is that it will act as a deterrent to bad behavior if someone is reminded more closely that their actions are being recorded.

My thought is that it only works for those that fear repercussions, and are held accountable by no-nonsense prosecutors and judges, committed to enforcing the laws enacted to address the very behavior it is meant to deter. Time will tell, but police across the country are open to any idea that thwarts criminal activity I'm sure.

Walmart tests body cameras for store employees as retail crime surges

"The moment that you see yourself is probably [when] you're going to change your behavior, and that's what I think the use of a body-worn camera can do," security expert David Johnston of the...

Read More

Workers at TJ Maxx and Marshalls are wearing police-like body cameras. Here's how it's going | CNN Business

Hourly retail security workers are now wearing police-like body cameras at major chains.

Read More

Trust the Numbers...But Are They Reflective of What Citizens Think They Measure?

Stealth Edit: FBI Quietly Revises Violent Crime Stats

When the FBI originally released the "final" crime data for 2022 in September 2023, it reported that the nation's violent crime rate fell by 2.1%. This quickly became a dueling political talking point between Democrat and Republican parties.

But as you read the linked article, you will soon realize that the current process, not unlike the processes used to collect crime data for years, is inherently plagued by reporting consistency, and data accuracy and integrity. IBM provides users of its data the following guidance:

Data accuracy refers to the degree to which data is correct, precise, and free from errors. In other words, it measures the closeness of a piece of data to its true value. Data accuracy is a crucial aspect of data quality, as inaccurate data can lead to incorrect decision-making, poor customer service, and operational inefficiencies. **Data integrity** is the maintenance and assurance of the consistency, accuracy, and reliability of data throughout its lifecycle. It ensures that data remains unaltered and uncompromised from its original state when it was created, transmitted, or stored.

Understanding the limitations of crime statistics is critical to making any decisions based upon assertions made by anyone referring to "crime stats".

Read More

Technology

"Salt Typhoon"

China Launched a Digital Pearl Harbor Attack

If you have not heard of the Chinese state backed cyber group "Salt Typhoon", you are not alone. My informal survey of family, friends, and neighbors revealed that almost none of them

were aware that China has attacked the telecommunications networks in the United States, in a massive and continuing hack of the phone systems used by the majority of US citizens.

It appears that the attack has been on-going for more than 2 years, and the Chinese hackers exploited features in the telecommunications system that provided access to both voice and data communications of cell phone users via a "back door" feature installed by the telecommunications infrastructure in order to accommodate the Patriot Act and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

I have included a series of articles and guidance being provided to explain the hack, the threat, and provide some guidance in dealing with the on-going attack.

Salt Typhoon: How Hackers Exploited America's Telecom Giants - Risk and Resilience Hub

Read More

China Hack Enabled Vast Spying on U.S. Officials, Likely Ensnaring Thousands of Contacts

Hackers scooped up call logs, unencrypted texts and some audio, piercing America's communications infrastructure Hackers linked to Chinese intelligence used precision strikes to quietly compromise cellphone lines used by an array of senior national security and policy officials across the U.S. government in addition to politicians, according to people familiar with the matter.

Read More

Officials call China's cyberattack 'worst telecom hack' in US history

New details of a highly skilled group of Chinese government-linked hackers that infiltrated multiple US telecommunications firms in a likely search for sensitive information bearing on national security, multiple sources briefed on the matter told CNN. #CNN #News

Read More

CISA Urges Encrypted Messaging After Salt Typhoon Hack

The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency recommended users turn on phishing-resistant MFA and switch to Signal-like apps for messaging....

Read More

He Tried to Warn US

While I am not a big fan of the manner in which Christopher Wray has led the FBI during his tenure, it does not tarnish the information and warnings he provided Congress in a public hearing earlier this year.

Between Chinese spies infiltrating colleges, companies, and government, it is pretty clear to me that we are at war with China, but too much trade and finance entangles us to recognize the clear and present danger the Chinese Communist Party represents to the United States.

Below are but a few recent incidents....

FBI issues dramatic public warning: Chinese hackers are preparing to 'wreak havoc' on the US

FBI Director Christopher Wray warned that Chinese hackers are preparing to "wreak havoc and cause real-world harm" to the US. #cnn #news

Read More

What They Are Saying: Joint Investigation Finds Potential Chinese Espionage Threats to U.S. Ports

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This week, the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party released a joint investigative report exposing the rising threat to U.S. economic and homeland security posed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Read More

Underwater footage raises suspicions of undersea cable sabotage as European authorities board Chinese ship for investigation

The undersea cable cutting saga is moving forward, and new underwater video footage are starting to make things clearer.

Read More

Exclusive | Map shows Chinese-owned farmland next to 19 US military bases in 'alarming' threat to national security: experts

The Post has identified 19 bases across the US in close proximity to land bought up by Chinese entities, which could be exploited by spies working for the communist nation to gather military information.

Read More

"I Want to be a Better"...Investigator

As I watched "A Few Good Men" for the 21st time last night with my daughter and son-in-law, I was reminded again of one of the most significant principles of investigations.... "don't assume anything". Always ask for the source of a witness's statements.

For those too young to have seen the movie, PFC Downwey, one of the defendants, takes the stand and testifies that he had been ordered by commanding staff to engage in a "Code Red", which was an informal discipline administered "off the books" / "out of sight".

It turns out that prior to the trial and during witness prep, his defense attorney asked him "Who ordered you to administer the Code Red?" and he said, "Lt. Kendrick" (one of the base commanders).

Downey's attorney didn't ask for details to support the assertion, and at trial his testimony is impeached when the prosecutor asks for details, and the witness is forced to admit that his co-defendant "told him" Lt. Kendrick had ordered the Code Red, and the witness believed him, so he always told everyone Kendrick was the one.

The actual script:

(Prosecutor)**Capt. Ross :** Private, did you ever actually hear Lieutenant Kendrick order a code red?
Downey : *[nervously]* Well, Hal said that...
Capt. Ross : Private, did you ever actually hear Lieutenant Kendrick order a code red?
Downey : No, sir.
(Defense attorney) **Galloway :** *[stands up]* Please the court, I'd like to request a recess...

Always, always ask for the details in any investigation or questioning of parties involved in an investigation. And do not include multiple questions or elements that can lead to confusion.

For instance, this summer I arrived home after work, and my wife arrived home hours later. She noticed that the lawn had been cut while she was gone.

She asked me: "Did you cut the grass right after you got home?"

There are two questions, and I wasn't sure how to answer. I did cut the grass, but in my mind she was asking "when", because she was under the mistaken assumption that I had gotten home shortly before her.

I answered "NO" because I had cut it about 90 minutes after I got home. She then asked me "Well then who cut it?" and I said "me". The rest of the conversation did not go well for me, but it points out how easy it can be for all of us to ask questions with too many elements contained within the question.

(I did tell her she should have asked: "***Did you cut the grass today***" My response would have been : Yes, then she could follow-up with "***When did you cut the grass***?") That's when this all went downhill for me, with her exclaiming that "I am not some witness in one of your investigations, you knew what I meant!." I'm still in the doghouse :)

It's elementary stuff, but critical for a good investigator to always remember.

Another key component for investigators at every level and organization is to have more than just an understanding of digital evidence. It is a component in every investigation today. A couple of course are highlighted below, with locations convenient for Alabama and Tennessee law enforcement personnel.

Digital Forensics Investigator Level 1 Program

Description The Digital Forensics Investigators 1 (DFI-1) Program formerly the Mobile Device Investigations Program (MDIP) is designed to provide investigators with the basic training necessary to complete a forensically sound acquisition of digital evidence from mobile devices and external media devices.

Read More

Cell Phone Investigation Techniques

It has become increasingly difficult for law enforcement to successfully exploit cell phones due to the evolution of smartphone technology. Criminals' heavy reliance on

cell phones makes it crucial for police officers to learn common cell phone terminology and understand the data they receive from cell phone companies.

Read More

2025 Law Enforcement Technology Trends You Need to Know

Discover the top law enforcement technology trends for 2025, including AI, mobile tech, data-driven policing, and innovative solutions.

Read More

Crime

A suspect recently tied to multiple murders was previously featured in a documentary focused on Birmingham, Alabama and the record-breaking murder rates. There is a sub-culture that does not value life, laws, or those involved in enforcing them.

Embedded in the following linked article is a link to the YouTube video. The documentary provides a window into a street culture that may be a significant factor in the killings.

It is a scary look into a world where evil lives.

'Why show them compassion?': Birmingham mass shooting suspect appears in chilling documentary

"They ain't going to spare me," Damien Laron McDaniel III said. "If their son ends up dead and they come to court, they ain't going to spare me."

Read More

How Criminals Are Using the Dark Web

The criminal side of the internet, the Dark Web, is unknown to most of us. This week's guest, criminologist David Maimon, takes us behind the curtain into a world where criminals talk to one another anonymously and the personal identifying information of thousands of unsuspecting victims is up for sale.

Read More

2024 Impact - ICJE Training and Education

Training Schedule

For more information on the 2025 schedule, please visit our website by clicking on "Read More":

Read More

One Last Thing

Without trust, we have lost the lubricant that keeps the engine of the American experience alive.

We strive to provide information to inform, which also may be presented with commentary that leads readers to assess their current perspectives from a different angle. We hope that the information provided by ICJE is information and training you can trust!

Looking forward to a great New Year!

- Jim Rechel ICJE Newsletter Editor
jimrechel@icje.org