



Cyber Center of Excellence

Unclassified Threat Read Book

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Cyber

1. [Major cyber attacks and data breaches of 2024 \(Security Boulevard, 14 NOV, Harman Singh\)](#)

As 2024 draws to a close, the cybersecurity landscape continues to evolve, marked by both familiar adversaries and emerging threats with newer technologies and improved tactics. Rather than merely cataloguing breaches, we look into the anatomy of significant cyber attacks, associated vulnerabilities that led to such events, and relevant controls. We've chronicled key developments month by month, offering a comprehensive view of the cyber attacks of 2024 narrative that would help you learn lessons.

2. [CISA, FBI Confirm China Hacked Telecoms Providers for Spying \(Security Week, 14 NOV, Ionut Arghire\)](#)

CISA and the FBI have confirmed that Chinese hackers compromised the networks of telecommunications companies to spy on specific targets.

3. [Cloud Ransomware Flexes Fresh Scripts Against Web Apps \(Dark Reading, 14 NOV, Becky Bracken\)](#)

Cloud service providers are getting better at protecting data, pushing adversaries to develop new cloud ransomware scripts to target PHP applications, a new report says.

4. [China's Volt Typhoon Rebuilding Botnet \(Security Week, 13 NOV, Eduard Kovacs\)](#)

The botnet created by the Chinese threat group Volt Typhoon re-emerged recently, with the hackers leveraging the same core infrastructure and techniques, according to cybersecurity ratings company SecurityScorecard.

5. [Iranian Cybercriminals Target Aerospace Workers via LinkedIn \(Dark Reading, 13 NOV\)](#)

The group seeks out aerospace professionals by impersonating job recruiters — a demographic it has targeted in the past as well — then deploys the SlugResin backdoor malware.

6. [GitLoker Strikes Again: New "Goissue" Tool Targets GitHub Developers and Corporate Supply Chains \(Security Week, 12 NOV, Kevin Townsend\)](#)

Goissue is a new tool for cybercriminals that allows attackers to extract email addresses from GitHub profiles and send bulk emails to users.

7. [2 Zero-Day Bugs in Microsoft's Nov. Update Under Active Exploit \(Dark Reading, 12 NOV, Jai Vijayan\)](#)

The November 2024 Patch Tuesday update contains a substantially high percentage of remote code execution (RCE) vulnerabilities (including a critical issue in Windows Kerberos), and two other zero-day bugs that have been previously disclosed and could soon come under attack.



8. **[CISA, NSA, and Partners Issue Annual Report on Top Exploited Vulnerabilities](#)** (NSA, 12 NOV, Press Release)

Malicious cyber actors are increasingly exploiting zero day vulnerabilities to compromise enterprise networks, [according to an annual Cybersecurity Advisory \(CSA\) about the top routinely exploited vulnerabilities](#) co-authored by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the National Security Agency (NSA), and domestic and foreign partners.

9. **[US Gov Agency Urges Employees to Limit Phone Use After China 'Salt Typhoon' Hack](#)** (Security Week, 08 NOV, SecurityWeek News)

The US government's CFPB sent an email with a simple directive: "Do NOT conduct CFPB work using mobile voice calls or text messages."

10. **[North Korean Hackers Target macOS Users](#)** (Security Week, 07 NOV, Ryan Naraine)

North Korean cryptocurrency thieves caught targeting macOS with fake PDF applications, backdoors and new persistence tactics.

11. **[NSA Issues Guidance for using Trusted Platform Modules \(TPMs\)](#)** (NSA, 07 NOV, Press Release)

The National Security Agency (NSA) is issuing [guidance for using Trusted Platform Modules \(TPMs\)](#) to secure computing devices and harden the Department of Defense (DoD) enterprise infrastructure.

12. **[Citrix, Cisco, Fortinet Zero-Days Among 2023s Most Exploited Vulnerabilities](#)** (Security Week, 13 MAY, Ionut Arghire)

Most of the top frequently exploited vulnerabilities in 2023 were initially exploited as zero-days, according to data from government agencies.

Electronic Warfare

1. [Journal of Electromagnetic Dominance \(JED\): Ground-Based COMINT Aims for “Mass” \(Association of Old Crows, Nov 2024\)](#)
2. [EP-3E Aries II Spy Plane Has Flown Its Last Operational Mission \(TWZ, 07 NOV, Thomas Newdick\)](#)

Current tensions in the Middle East prolonged the final deployment of the EP-3E Aries II intelligence-gathering aircraft.
3. [Massive Chinese Anti-Drone High-Power Microwave Weapon Emerges \(TWZ, 07 NOV, Joseph Trevithick\)](#)

China's directed energy counter-drone efforts are building steam with multiple high-power microwave systems featured at this year's Zhuhai Airshow.
4. [Army examining best approach to fight electronic warfare at echelon \(Defense Scoop, 06 NOV, Mark Pomerleau\)](#)

A series of events will help officials determine what the concept of employment for EW will be at the division level and what the current program of record looks like.
5. [China's J-20 Mighty Dragon's Designer Unveils “ChatGPT Military” That Can Attack Enemy Radars With EW Drones \(EurAsian Times, 05 NOV, Shubhangi Palve\)](#)

“Words can kill” is no longer a philosophical notion—it's a real factor in electronic warfare today. How, you might wonder? The answer lies in the dual-edged nature of artificial intelligence.

Information Advantage

1. [China opens Chancay port in Peru, boosting influence in Latin America](#) (Invezz, 15 NOV, Noris Soto)

China is set to strengthen its position in Latin America with the official opening of the first phase of the Chancay port project, located 70 kilometers north of Lima.

2. [China looks to expand global influence with Xi's Latin America tour](#) (VOA, 13 NOV, William Yang)

Chinese President Xi Jinping departs on a nine-day diplomatic tour to Latin America on Wednesday, during which he will inaugurate a Chinese-financed megaport in Peru and attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Lima and the G20 Summit in Brazil.

3. [Russian power creeps across West Africa with Equatorial Guinea mission](#) (Reuters, 12 NOV, David Lewis, Filipp Lebedev & Giulia Paravicini)

Russia has deployed up to 200 military instructors to Equatorial Guinea in recent weeks to protect the presidency, sources told Reuters, showing Moscow is expanding its footprint in West Africa despite a recent defeat in Mali.

4. [The US election was largely trouble-free, but a flood of misinformation raises future concerns](#) (AP News, 08 NOV, Christina A. Cassidy & David Klepper)

A relatively trouble-free presidential election was good news for those working to restore faith in the system. Less encouraging was a flood of misinformation that sought to undermine trust in voting and sow chaos, something experts say is likely to get worse in the years ahead.

5. [China Cracks Down On "Chinese Propaganda"; Fake News About Military, Foreign Conflicts Face Axe](#) (EurAsian Times, 02 NOV, Saksh Tiwari)

China has launched an extensive campaign to combat the growing menace of fake news, misleading information, and false claims swirling on social media, which undermine the country's reputation and project it in a poor light.

Signal

1. [Space Force targeting more affordable GPS satellites](#) (Defense News, 15 NOV, Courtney Albon)

The Space Force wants its next fleet of GPS satellites to be smaller, cheaper and more resilient — and it's looking to a mix of commercial and defense firms to help design those spacecraft.

2. [Chinese Starlink Rival Swoops Into Brazil After Elon Musk Feud](#) (Bloomberg, 08 NOV, Daniel Carvalho)

Fresh off a bitter feud with Elon Musk over his social media platform X, Brazil is now courting a Chinese company to compete with the US billionaire's Starlink internet service.

3. [Groundbreaking Tech! British Royal Navy Tests Un-Jammable Quantum Powered Navigation Technology](#) (EurAsian Times, 06 NOV, Ashish Dangwal)

The Royal Navy has completed trials of an 'un-jammable' quantum-powered navigation technology that could enable vessels to operate seamlessly in GPS-denied or degraded environments.

4. [How 2024 became the year of transformation for the 101st Airborne Division](#) (PEO C3N, 04 NOV, Kathryn Bailey)

Driven by the latest networked communications technologies, the U.S. Army's only air assault division transformed its "Strike" Brigade Combat Team into a more lethal, strategically mobile and multidomain-capable combat-ready force.

5. [Royal Navy Successfully Tests Quantum-Sensing Technology for Alternative PNT](#) (Inside GNSS, 1 NOV, Inside GNSS)

The Royal Navy has successfully demonstrated the capabilities of ground-breaking cold atom technology. P2000 vessel HMS Pursuer hosted the trial, which unlocks new possibilities in areas such as covert monitoring, which require precise signals for accurate positioning, navigation and timing.

Items of Interest

1. [**Xi inaugurates South America's first Chinese-funded port**](#) (DW, 15 NOV)

The Chancay megaport aims to streamline trade between South America and Asia and marks a significant step in China's Belt and Road Initiative. It has raised alarm bells in Washington.

2. [**North Korea orders mass production of suicide drones: report**](#) (DW, 14 NOV)

Kim Jong Un watched a test of suicide drones and wants production of the aerial weapons ramped up. North Korea's latest military operation came as the US, South Korea and Japan engaged in combined military exercises.

3. [**China-Taiwan Weekly Update, November 13, 2024**](#) (ISW, 13 NOV, Matthew Sperzel, Alison O'Neil, Karina Wugang, Frank Mattimoe & Alexis Turek)

Key Takeaways

- The ROC government's November 6 petition to disband the Chinese Unification Promotion Party (CUPP) and indictment of agents acting on behalf of the PRC illustrates the extensiveness of PRC infiltration and political warfare efforts in Taiwan.
- The PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) released coordinates demarcating its claimed territorial sea baseline around Scarborough Shoal on November 10. The PRC's announcement of a territorial sea baseline around Scarborough Shoal likely aims to legitimize its territorial claim by fabricating a legal basis using internationally recognized maritime law concepts.
- PRC Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu met in Beijing for the 19th round of PRC-Russia strategic security consultations. The PRC's and Russia's differing emphases signal the partnership's shared interests with distinct priorities.

4. [**China In U.S. Backyard: Beijing Funded "Largest Port" In Americas To Be Inaugurated By Xi Jinping**](#) (Eurasian Times, 11 NOV, Ritu Sharma)

China's President Xi Jinping will inaugurate its first mega port in Latin America next week, giving China a foothold in America's backyard. Brazil, a founding member of BRICS, has so far refused to join China's Border and Road Initiative but has been keen to connect to the Chinese-funded port in Peru.

5. [**Star Wars! How Cost-Effective, High-Energy Laser Weapons Are Turning Science Fiction Into A Reality**](#) (EurAsian Times, 08 NOV, Shubhangi Palve)

As military conflicts evolve and new technologies emerge, laser weapons are carving out a significant niche in defense strategies worldwide, offering a cost-effective and efficient alternative to exorbitant missile defense systems.



6. [**U.S. citizen arrested in Germany on suspicion of offering military intelligence to China \(NBC News, 07 NOV, Carlo Angerer\)**](#)

The federal prosecutor's office said the suspect, identified only as Martin D. under German privacy law, until recently “worked for the U.S. armed forces in Germany.”

7. [**China-Taiwan Weekly Update, November 6, 2024 \(ISW, 13 NOV, Matthew Sperzel, Alison O’Neil, Karina Wugang, Frank Mattimoe & Alexis Turek\)**](#)

Key Takeaways

- The PRC’s hosting of the 5th Cross-strait Media Summit in Beijing from October 31 to November 1 contributes to its efforts to cultivate a favorable information landscape in Taiwan.
- TAO Spokesperson Zhu Fenglian announced new steps to develop Fujian province as a center for cross-strait integration on October 30 that likely aim to foster Taiwan’s economic dependence on the mainland and build political support for cross-strait integration.
- The China Coast Guard entered Taiwan’s restricted waters around Kinmen three separate times from October 28–30. Normalizing CCG incursions between Kinmen and the main island of Taiwan enhances the PRC’s preparedness to initiate a future blockade or quarantine of the islands.
- PRC hackers directly targeted US presidential candidates and other major political figures in an extensive cyber espionage campaign.
- The PLA aircraft carriers Liaoning and Shandong conducted joint military exercises for the first time in the South China Sea.

8. [**China’s “Mind-Boggling” Space Militarization Raises Alarm In The U.S.; Beijing Says Pentagon Inflating “China Threat” Theory \(EurAsian Times, 02 NOV, Ashish Dangwal\)**](#)

The head of the US Space Force has warned about China’s rapid advancements in military space technology, describing the speed and diversity of China’s developments as “mind-boggling.”



Middle East Conflict

1. Institute for The Study of War Iran Update:

The Iran Update provides insights into Iranian and Iranian-sponsored activities abroad that undermine regional stability and threaten US forces and interests. It also covers events and trends that affect the stability and decision-making of the Iranian regime.

[Iran Update](#), November 15, 2024

[Iran Update](#), November 14, 2024

[Iran Update](#), November 13, 2024

[Iran Update](#), November 12, 2024

[Iran Update](#), November 11, 2024

[Iran Update](#), November 10, 2024

[Iran Update](#), November 09, 2024

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2. [US government worker charged with leaking classified documents on Israel's plans to strike Iran](#) (AP News, 13 NOV, Eric Tucker)

A man who worked for the U.S. government has been charged with leaking classified information assessing Israel's earlier plans to attack Iran, according to court papers filed Wednesday.

3. [Middle East: Operation Opera \(1981\): how Important Is the Israel-America Relationship?](#) (BBC, 13 NOV)

What can history teach us about the conflict in the Middle East?

4. [Is Israel ready to hit Iran's nuclear sites?](#) (DW, 12 NOV, Shabnam von Hein)

Newly appointed Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz has said the time is right for launching military strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities.

5. [Houthis attack US warships after US strikes in Yemen](#) (BBC, 12 NOV, Ruth Comerford)

A multiple-missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels on two US warships has been thwarted, the Pentagon has said.

6. [Are Houthis blackmailing shipping companies for millions?](#) (DW, 12 NOV, Cathrin Schaer)

UN experts suspect the Houthis, who have been attacking maritime traffic off Yemen's coast for a year now, have started charging ships for 'safe passage.' But maritime security experts are doubtful.

7. [**Qatar suspends role as mediator between Israel and Hamas**](#) (BBC, 09 NOV, Joe Inwood & Rushdi Abualouf)

Qatar has suspended its work as a mediator in ceasefire and hostage release talks between Israel and Hamas, officials say.

8. [**Middle East: Israel withdrawal from Gaza \(2005\)**](#) (BBC, 06 NOV)

What can history teach us about the conflict in the Middle East?

9. [**Air-Launched Ballistic Missiles: How Israel 'Exploited' Loopholes In Iran's Defenses & Easily Hit Its Targets**](#) (EurAsian Times, 07 NOV, Ashish Dangwal)

Israel's recent strikes on Iran on October 26 have revealed a new level of military precision and tactical finesse, leveraging air-launched ballistic missiles (ALBMs) to target Iran's air defense systems, missile production facilities, and other high-value sites.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. Institute for The Study of War

- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), November 15, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), November 14, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), November 13, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), November 12, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), November 11, 2024
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- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), November 02, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), November 01, 2024

2. [Kyiv: North Korean troops already fighting for Russia](#) (DW, 15 NOV, Ralph Martin)

Ukraine's government says that North Korean soldiers who were sent to Russia have already started to fight for Moscow in the country's Kursk region. The deployment is fueling fears that the conflict is escalating. What impact could North Korea's involvement have?

3. [Russia Bets On 45-Year-Old N.Korean Koksan Guns To 'Push Back' ATACMS, Enforce Ceasefire. Can It Do The Trick?](#) (EurAsian Times, 15 NOV, Vijaiinder K. Thakur)

Social media reports suggest that Russia has acquired 170mm self-propelled M-1989 Koksan guns from North Korea. These guns have been observed on trains in the city of Krasnoyarsk, central Russia, presumably heading towards the frontlines in Ukraine.

4. [Hamas Hackers Spy on Mideast Gov'ts, Disrupt Israel](#) (Dark Reading, 14 NOV, Nate Nelson)

APT Wirte is doing double duty, adding all manner of supplemental malware to gain access, eavesdrop, and wipe data, depending on the target.

5. [Russia's Largest Film Studio Donated Antique Tanks To The Military](#) (TWZ, 13 NOV, Howard Altman)

Russia has lost at least 3,500 tanks so far in its all-out invasion of Ukraine and has been pulling increasingly older types from various sources.

6. [Zelensky says Russia has 50,000 troops in Kursk](#) (BBC, 12 NOV, Patrick Jackson)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said his military's ongoing incursion into Russia's Kursk region is now holding down 50,000 Russian troops.

7. [Russia's 50,000-Soldier-Strong Push To Kick Ukraine Out Of Kursk](#)

[Has Begun](#) (TWZ, 11 NOV, Howard Altman)

As the political winds have shifted in the U.S., Ukraine holding Kursk as a bargaining chip could be seen as more important than ever.

8. [North Korea ratifies major defense treaty with Russia](#) (AP News, 11 NOV, Hyung-Jin Kim)

North Korea ratified a major defense treaty with Russia stipulating mutual military aid, the North's state media reported Tuesday, as the U.S., South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea has sent thousands of troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine.

9. [Will Russia exposure leave North Korean troops wanting more?](#) (DW, 11 NOV, Julian Ryall)

Pyongyang is reportedly sending thousands of its soldiers to fight against Ukraine. Most of them have never been abroad before — and even traveling to Russia could make them realize North Korea is desperately poor.

10. [Moscow targeted as Ukraine and Russia trade huge drone attacks](#) (BBC, 11 NOV, Alex Boyd)

Russia and Ukraine have carried out their largest drone attacks against each other since the start of the war.

11. [Russia 'Steps Up' Long-Range Precision Attacks On Ukrainian Military Using Grom-E1 Missiles](#) (EurAsian Times, 10 NOV, Vijaiinder K. Thakur)

The Telegraph reports that Russian forces have stepped up long-range precision attacks on Ukrainian forces using the 120 km range Grom-E1 guided missiles.

12. [American Boots In Ukraine: U.S. OKs Sending Contractors To Repair F-16s, Patriots Deployed In Country: CNN](#) (EurAsian Times, 09 NOV, Ashish Dangwal)

In a significant policy shift, the Pentagon is reportedly easing restrictions to allow a limited number of American defense contractors to operate within Ukraine to assist with the maintenance and repair of critical military equipment, including F-16 fighters and Patriot air defense systems.

13. [U.S. Contractors Will Be Allowed To Fix F-16s, Patriots In Ukraine: Report](#) (TWZ, 08 NOV, Howard Altman)

Allowing U.S. personnel to work on donated equipment in Ukraine represents a major policy shift by the outgoing Biden administration.

14. [Ukraine says it fought N Korean troops for first time](#) (BBC, 06 NOV, Kelly Ng)

North Korean soldiers have clashed with Ukrainian troops for the first time, Ukraine's top officials have revealed.

15. [Ukraine Hits Caspian Sea Port For The First Time](#) (TWZ, 06 NOV, Howard Altman)

The military port is home to the Russian Navy's Caspian Sea Flotilla, several military units and is along routes Iran uses to ship weapons.

16. [North Korea's Bizarre Barter! Russia To Provide NK With Cash,](#)

[Food, Tech For Help In Ukraine War: Reports](#) (EurAsian Times, 04 NOV, Sakshi Tiwari)

As concerns persist over the deployment of North Korean troops in the Ukraine war on the side of Russia, a new report has claimed that Moscow secured military assistance from Pyongyang in exchange for food and grains.

17. [North Korea Joins Russia's War Against Ukraine: Operational and Strategic Implications in Ukraine and Northeast Asia](#) (ISW, 01 NOV, Karolina Hird, Daniel Shats & Alison O'Neil)

North Korea has deployed a contingent of troops to Russia in support of Russia's war in Ukraine —the latest development in intensified cooperation between the two countries since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The Kremlin is likely to leverage North Korean manpower to support its ongoing offensive efforts and offset requirements of Russia's domestic force generation capacity. The impacts of the deployment of North Korean troops into the Ukrainian theater of operations extend far beyond the battlefield in Ukraine, however. Pyongyang likely hopes that North Korean military personnel will gain combat experience in the conditions of contemporary war — experience that it may hope to apply to future conflicts it may fight. The alignment between North Korea and Russia poses the distinct possibility of threatening the long-term stability of the Korean Peninsula and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

18. [Ukrainian Defenses In The East Are Buckling, Russian Advance Is Accelerating](#) (TWZ, 01 NOV, Howard Altman)

Ukraine continues to lose ground in Donetsk as Russian forces grind their way through defenses.