

On March 1, the Cyber Threat Alert Level was evaluated and is remaining at Blue (Guarded) due to vulnerabilities in Google and Aruba products. **CIS Security Advisories**

Threat Level's explained

REEN or LOW indicates a low risk.

wanted to look back at the AI journey. I was fortunate enough to attend a $\underline{\mathbf{R}}$

things that are rapidly becoming reality in our modern world. Watch the

Sci-Fi movies that predicted (or inspired) future technology

that some components depicted in the movie would not be sustainable in the long run.

originally released in 1927, Metropolis!

(This first part is a bit blurry, but it gets better).

world today. Let's look at a few more examples

- BLUE or GUARDED indicates a general risk of increased hacking, virus, or other malicious activity.
- YELLOW or ELEVATED indicates a significant risk due to increased hacking, virus, or other malicious activity that compromises systems or diminishes service.
- ORANGE or HIGH indicates a high risk of increased hacking, virus, or other malicious cyber activity that targets or compromises core infrastructure, causes multiple service outages, causes multiple system compromises, or compromises critical infrastructure.
- SEVERE indicates a severe risk of hacking, virus, or other malicious activity resulting in widespread • outages and/or significantly destructive compromises to systems with no known remedy or debilitates one or more critical infrastructure sectors.

As Artificial Intelligence, or "AI" as all references to it, is the talk of the town with ChatGPT and possible "AI Singularity" dominating Cyber news lately, I

Metropolis is a 1927 German expressionist science-fiction film that depicts a futuristic dystopian urban society or "worker's city, far below the surface of the earth", and a utopian "pleasure garden for the sons of the masters of Metropolis" high above in the same subterranean city. In the movie, you will see great machines and inventions that were merely the fruit of the rich imagination of Thea von Harbou, the author of the novel that inspired the The workers in the bellows of the city literally worked themselves to death to keep the "pleasure garden" functioning. Then Rotwang, the inventor, "created a machine in the image of man, that never tires or makes a mistake" (the first idea of a humanoid robot). Now they had no use for living workers anymore. In one scene you see other futuristic technology items that included seemingly autonomous airships and flying machines. All

So, you see, as far back as 1927, movies brought the imagination of many to the forefront and inspired autonomous technology, much as we see in the

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) - Over 50 years ago, 2001: A Space Odyssey premiered a startlingly prescient vision of the future with its technological

advancement foreshadowing the development of voice recognition, artificial intelligence, and much more. Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi symphony tracks a

space voyage that is unexpectedly threatened when the spaceship's supercomputer, HAL (voiced by Douglas Rain), suffers an internal malfunction and becomes increasingly aggressive, opposing his original programming. Today's A.I. assistants have already surpassed HAL's level in their abilities to read human emotions, contribute to conversations, and dictate decisions. Thus, A.I. author Peter Scott suggests that HAL being a product of the year 2001

may be the biggest issue with the prediction. "It is telling that 2001 shows us how powerful HAL is by showing him beating a human at chess. We now

technology of tomorrow, giving particular attention to those interfaces that enable human bodies to interact with digital resources without physically using input devices. This thrill-ride into the future takes a deep dive into the complexities of precognitive technology, concealed identity, and multiple time paths, as Chief John Anderton (Tom Cruise) is tasked with preventing murders before they ever occur. Casting the time travel element aside,

gesture-based computing is already in use to a certain extent, but the full realization of its potential may be several years away. Also, it should be noted

Total Recall (1990) - Paul Verhoeven imagined a high-tech spectacle future in his sci-fi classic Total Recall, which features everything from animatronic disguises, self-driving vehicles, and the colonization of another planet in our solar system. The movie is once again, loosely based on a 1966 short story

haunted by a recurrent dream that forces him on a journey of discovery to outer space. Perhaps unsurprisingly, a Mars-based society falls on the lower end of the accuracy scale, as we are still a long way from safely deploying humans to explore the red planet. However, at the other end of the scale,

Back to the future II (1989) – The movie wowed audiences with its futuristic view of the year 2015 – a time that sees Hill Valley residents grab their selflacing shoes from the closet, jump in their flying cars to access the skyway, and consume dehydrated pizza for dinner on the daily. Rather remarkably, the crazy inventions dreamt up by writer Bob Gale and brought to the screen by director Robert Zemeckis have proven to be somewhat prescient in the thirty years since the movie's release. BTTF 2 envisions the use of drone technology for walking dogs and photographing events to report the news. Now while drones don't serve these purposes at the moment, this possibility is perhaps closer than we think. Other semi accurate predictions include fingerprint recognition and augmented reality, both of which appear in a more refined manner in the movie than the

Blade Runner (1982) - Over 35 years ago, Blade Runner projected a bold vision of a dystopian future that illustrated a hyper-technological and over-

populated megacity, suffering from the effects of irreversible pollution and corporate dominance. Set in 2019, Ridley Scott's neo-noir sci-fi thriller follows the story of bounty hunter Rick Deckard (played by Harrison Ford) who is dispatched onto the

from the mind of Philip K. Dick, follows the footsteps of construction worker Douglas Quaid (Arnold Schwarzenegger) living in the year 2084. Doug is

itonomous cars with "extensive driver support systems" may be here within the next decade, according to automotive expert Jon M Quigley.

Minority Report (2002) Based on a 1956 short story by Philip K. Dick. - Set in the year 2054, Steven Spielberg's Minority Report peers into the

know that was a much easier accomplishment (achieved in 1997) than any level of artificial general intelligence," he reflected.

actual implementation in real life. Sadly though, hoverboards and flying cars haven't filtered into mainstream use just ye

presenters spoke about the influence of Sci-Fi movies in the development of technology and AI. The presenter took us all the way back to a movie

n event earlier this week, and one of the

movie to see if a state of singularity was achieved by the humanoid $^{\odot}$

Sci-Fi Movies that inspired present day AI technology

WEEKLY IT SECURITY BULLETIN 03 March 2023

In The News This Week Chinese Hackers Targeting European Entities with New MQsTTang Backdoor The China-aligned Mustang Panda actor has been observed using a hitherto unseen custom backdoor called MQsTTang as part of an ongoing social engineering campaign that commenced in January 2023. "Unlike most of the group's malware, MQsTTang doesn't seem to be based on existing families or publicly available projects," ISST researcher Alexandre Côté Cyr said in a new report. Attack chains orchestrated by the group have stepped up targeting of European entities in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year. The victimology of the current activity is unclear, but the Slovak cybersecurity company said the decoy filenames are in line with the group's previous campaigns that target European political organizations. That said, ESET also observed attacks against unknown entities in Bulgaria and Australia, as well as a governmental institution in Taiwan, indicating focus on Europe and Asia.... Read the full article by Ravie Lakshmanan here: <u>The Hacker News</u>

Cybersecurity in wartime: how Ukraine's infosec community is coping A year into the war, resilience and adaptation, risk and sacrifice are the hallmarks of being a cybersecurity professional in Ukraine. - Whenever shells rain down on Ukraine, Yuriy Gatupov's colleagues put a '+' sign in a chat room. Then, the pluses are counted. "We check if everybody is alive," he says. Gatupov, the owner of two cybersecurity companies, says it is vital to stay connected during a time of war. With Russia now controlling around 18% of Ukraine's territory including Donbas and Crimea, tech workers face formidable challenges. Air raid sirens blast all the time. Explosions are heard in the distance. Power and internet outages are common. Sometimes, code is written in a basement. "You can't be prepared for such kind of situation," Gatupov said. "We stopped working as a business and started to work as a family." Bead the story by Andrada Fiscultan here: CSO

.. Read the rest of the story by Andrada Fiscutean here:

Why TikTok Is Being Banned on Gov't Phones in US and Beyond

The United States is ratcheting up national security concerns about TikTok, mandating that all federal employees delete the Chinese-owned social media app from government-issued mobile phones. Other Western governments are pursuing similar bans, citing espionage fears. So how serious is the threat? And should TikTok users who don't work for the government be worried about the app, too? The answers depend somewhat on whom you ask, and how concerned you are in general about technology companies gathering and sharing personal data.

The White House said Monday it is giving U.S. federal agencies 30 days to delete TikTok from all government-iss devices. Congress, the White House, U.S. armed forces and more than half of U.S. states had already banned TikTok amid concerns that its parent company, ByteDance, would give user data — such as browsing history and location — to the Chinese vernment, or push propaganda and misinformation on its behalf. Read the full Security Week article by Associated Press here: irity Week

US officials make case for renewing FISA surveillance powers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Biden administration officials urged Congress on Tuesday to renew a surveillance program the government has long seen as vital in protecting national security but whose future is uncertain because of scrutiny from an unusual alignment of civil liberties advocates and some Republicans. The program, which is under the Foreign Intellige Surveillance Act, or FISA, grants American spy agencies sweeping powers to surveil and examine communications of foreigners located outside the United States. It's set to expire at year's end unless Congress agrees to renew it Read the rest of the story by Eric Tucker and Nomaan Merchant here: Associated

Congress Wants Companies to Tell Consumers About Cameras, Microphones in Devices The House of Representatives on Feb. 27 overwhelmingly voted to make manufacturers tell consumers if an Internet-connected device comes with a camera or microphone, with enforcement left to the Federal Trade Commission. That requirement does not cover certain devices, such as "a telephone (including a mobile phone), a laptop, tablet, or any device that a consumer would reasonably expect to have a microphone or camera.".. Read the report by Nathan Worcester here: Epoch Times

BlackLotus bootkit bypasses UEFI Secure Boot on patched Windows 11

The developers of the BlackLotus UEFI bootkit have improved the malware with Secure Boot bypass capabilities that allow it to infected even fully patched Windows 11 systems. BlackLotus is the first public example of UEFI malware that can avoid the Secure Boot mechanism, thus being able to disable security protections that come with the operating system. The malware could be used to impair the BitLocker data protection feature, the Microsoft Defender Antivirus, and the Hypervisor-protected Code Integrity ... Read the story by Ionut Ilascu here: Bleeping Compute

