

Security: National Security Threat, Windows Back Doors and Huawei Technologies

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- [Lack of Secure Coding Called a National Security Threat](#) [2]

The "call to action" report, "Software Security Is National Security: Why the U.S. Must Replace Irresponsible Practices with a Culture of Institutionalized Security," discusses systemic issues with the software development landscape and what needs to be done to rectify the problem of negligent coding. But solving the problem won't be easy, given the problems of speed-to-market pressures and the sheer number of IoT devices being produced, the report notes.

- [\[Attackers\] have been holding the city of Baltimore's computers hostage for 2 weeks](#) [3] [Ed: Windows]

Here's what's happening: On May 7, [attackers] digitally seized about 10,000 Baltimore government computers and demanded around \$100,000 worth in bitcoins to free them back up. It's a so-called "ransomware" attack, where hackers deploy malicious software to block access to or take over a computer system until the owner of that system pays a ransom.

Baltimore, like several other cities that have been hit by such attacks over the past two years, is refusing to pay up. As a result, for two weeks, city employees have been locked out of their email accounts and citizens have been unable to access essential services, including websites where they pay their water bills, property taxes, and parking tickets. This is Baltimore's second ransomware attack in about 15 months: Last year, a separate attack shut down the city's 911 system for about a day. Baltimore has come under scrutiny for its handling of both attacks.

- [\[Windows\] Ransomware Cyberattacks Knock Baltimore's City Services Offline](#) [4]

With no key, Rubin said the city will have to rebuild its servers from the ground up. That will likely take months, he said, and will involve implementing new hardware and software and restoring any data the city may have backed up.

- [After 2 Years, WannaCry Remains a Threat](#) [5]

And while the immediate dangers associated with WannaCry have faded, the ransomware still lurks, and many systems have not been patched to prevent exploits by EternalBlue and EternalRomance.

- [ARM latest firm to suspend business with Huawei; Intel mum](#) [6]

Chip designer ARM says it has to suspend business with Chinese telecommunications equipment vendor Huawei Technologies, a report claims.

- [The case against Huawei, explained](#) [7]

This morning, ARM announced that it was cutting ties with Huawei, in the interest of complying with all of the latest regulations set forth by the U.S. government. It's a catastrophe for Huawei's device business, halting its access to current and future chip designs and coming on the heels of similar breaks from Google and Microsoft. Huawei is in deep, deep trouble, and we still don't have a clear picture of why.

Security experts have been warning about Huawei for more than a year, but it's only in the last week that those warnings have escalated into an all-out trade blockade on the company's US partners. There's never been a full accounting of why the US government believes Huawei is such a threat, in large part because of national security interests, which means much of the evidence remains secret. But it's worth tracing out exactly where the concerns are coming from and where they could go from here.

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