

# Cybersecurity Expert says “Prepare for a Tidal Wave of New Hacks”

*WikiLeaks release of CIA hacking tools & techniques represents more of a danger to the public than merely the threat of overreach by the intelligence community.*

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, March 10, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- After the New York Times reported this week about what may be the largest leak of C.I.A documents in history on WikiLeaks, Michael Hill CISSP-ISSEP, C|EH a cybersecurity expert and president of CyberAssure, warns that the greatest concern to the public should be the potential new wave of cyber breaches that may follow. “Most hackers are far from being professionals,” he explained. “We call them script kiddies. They don’t actually know how to exploit the weakness in systems on their own but they know how to use hacking tools created by more talented hackers.” Drawing attention to the report of thousands of pages of seemingly legitimate material describing

sophisticated software tools and techniques used by the government hackers to break into smartphones, computers and even Internet-connected televisions, Hill went on to elaborate on the seriousness of the threat. “On a scale of the seriousness of threat agents, script kiddies are on the lower end, but at the top, the most serious, are state-sponsored hackers and we have the best of the

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The release of the trade secrets of state-sponsored professional hackers to the public could lead to a “tidal wave” of cyber-attacks by novices with upgraded capabilities.”

*Michael C. Hill*

best. Now the tools and techniques of our best cyber warriors are within reach of common criminals and others who would be typically be easy to defend against with common cybersecurity countermeasures.”

He describes what could be a new wave of cyber breaches using tools and techniques that were previously in the sole realm of government professionals. He suggests that with a wide distribution of more sophisticated methods for security breaches, bad actors from organized crime all the way to pranksters have just become more dangerous to us all. While most reports have focused on the implications of the CIA’s activities and potential abuse of power, the potential for

cyber-crime could be unprecedented if these security exploits are used by organized crime. The



Times reported that the C.I.A. Is able to compromise both Apple and Android smartphones. “Do you use ApplePay?” Hill asked. Other reported tools and techniques target internet browsers to uncover passwords, the microphone on smart televisions to eavesdrop, and ways to compromise dozens of widely used apps.

“The biggest problem is that most of these tactics can now be performed by a much larger group of bad actors. This has multiplied risk to many more users.” However, offering a ray of hope Hill added, “Fortunately, it looks like many of these hacks are targeting older vulnerabilities that may have been fixed in more recent patches or system updates. So, word to the wise: keep your software and hardware up to date at all times if you want to reduce the risk of a breach.”

CyberAssure, a division of Next Level Solutions, LLC, provides expert cybersecurity services to public and private sector organizations of every size to assure effective information security governance, risk management, and regulatory compliance. They have designed and implemented information security control architectures for national security systems used widely by civilian and military branches of the federal government. Mr. Hill directly provides cybersecurity support, consulting, and training to national security organizations. Some of the organizations CyberAssure has supported include US Army PEO EIS, Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), Department of Commerce (DoC), and Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA).

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