

Crying "Cybersecurity!"

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This message ponders the point at which continual cybersecurity warnings will fall on deaf ears.

According to *The Collins English Dictionary*,¹ *cry wolf* is defined as to give a false alarm. As an example of its usage, the following phrase is offered¹:

"If someone cries wolf, they say that there is a problem when there is not, with the result that people do not believe them when there really is a problem."

And if done often enough, the alarm is weakened or barely heard.

Relentless news alerts about cybersecurity threats are not false alarms. Cybersecurity alarms are real. We

receive numerous alarms daily, and for that matter, every day of the year.

The world is full of real and want-to-be "cyberwolves." After reading Hughes² discussing how continual security threats and warnings are "burning out" security professionals, it makes me wonder how long before continual cybersecurity alarms are going to wear everyone else out. Are we slipping into a state of cybersecurity fatigue where the

public becomes deaf and fails to hear the warnings? Might we be unwittingly waving the white flag and saying to ourselves, "Enough!"?

After all, keeping up with passwords that need continual updating is already too much for some folks. It is well known that some people use the same (meaning one) password for every device and account. Others don't even bother to change network device passwords that are preset by manufacturers. Whether intentional

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IN THIS ISSUE

In this Special Issue on Software Supply Chains, I'd like to add three additional articles. In "Virtualization Over Multiprocessor Systems-on-Chip: An Enabling Paradigm for the Industrial Internet of Things," the authors introduce multiprocessor system-on-chip platforms. The article argues that multiprocessor system-on-chip platforms and comprehensive virtualization support will be key components for smart devices. The article highlights aspects of these technologies that are most relevant for integration into Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) solutions. The article also proposes a reference architecture for a "virtualization-ready" IIoT node.


In "Supervisor Synthesis: Bridging Theory and Practice," the authors discuss supervisor synthesis, an approach developed

in the 1980s to automatically generate controllers for cyber-physical systems. The article discusses how the applicability of supervisor synthesis has increased due to technical advancements. The article discusses new developments that were key in the application of supervisor synthesis to larger systems.

In "Decentralized Machine Learning for Intelligent Health-Care Systems on the Computing Continuum," the authors argue that current personal electronic health record (EHR) systems do not provide transparent means for diagnosis support, medical research, or backing to utilize medical data produced by devices. This article argues that EHR systems treat patients and medical professionals as passive actors. The article explores approaches for decentralizing machine learning over distributed ledgers to create intelligent EHR systems that can use medical data for improved knowledge extraction.

—Jeffrey Voas, Editor in Chief

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or not, these folks have waved their flags. And finally, decades of published guidance and recommendations intended for providers to harden their critical infrastructures have produced only lukewarm results.³ Something to consider. 

REFERENCES

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