Privacy and Information Protection Committee Newsletter
May 30, 2017

U.S. laptop ban might be expanded to all flights into and out of the country: The U.S Homeland Security Secretary, John Kelly stated on Sunday, that the U.S. is considering increasing scope of the in-cabin laptop ban to include all flights into and out of the country. The measure is being considered as part of a program to “raise the bar” on airline security.

BROWSER ACT: A new privacy bill would expand the definition of “Sensitive” data. Representative Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) introduced a bill “Balancing the Rights of Web Surfers Equally and Responsibly Act of 2017” (“BROWSER Act, ” H.R. 2520) on May 18, 2017 that would expand the definition of sensitive data to mirror the repealed FCC privacy rules. The bill which has both opt-in and opt-out requirements depending on the sensitivity of the data would apply to both ISPs and edge providers. There are exceptions in the bill for provisioning of service, billing purposes and as required by law, and for public safety reasons.

President Trump Nominates Karen Dunn Kelley for the Privacy Shield Co-lead’s Seat: President Donald Trump has nominated Karen Dunn Kelley to be the next undersecretary of commerce for economic affairs. The post was earlier held during the Obama administration by Justin Antonipillai, the country's co-lead negotiator on the transatlantic Privacy Shield deal between the United States and the European Union. Last March, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said that he “understands the importance” of the Privacy Shield, which had strong support from many U.S. tech companies. The first annual review is slated for September.

Molina Healthcare investigates data breach: Molina Healthcare shut down its customer portal due to a possible data breach. It is unknown now how many of Molina’s 4.8 million customers were compromised by the exposure of their data to the internet without proper access controls. Earlier in May 2017, Molina was notified of the potential breach by Brian Krebs, a well-known cybersecurity expert. The healthcare provider responded that they were knew of the vulnerability. The breach would occur when Molina customer changed a single number in the URL to the portal for their records thereby accessing the records of another patient.

Target to pay $18.5 Million to states in data breach settlement: Target has agreed to pay $18.5 million as part of a settlement of suits brought by 47 states and the District of Columbia for the massive security breach that occurred in 2013 which compromised the data of millions of customers.

Coinbase and users fighting IRS summons get support from GOP: The GOP has written a letter in support of Coinbase and its users who are fighting an IRS summons. The letter states that the IRS summons of Coinbase users “seems overly broad, extremely burdensome, and highly
intrusive to a large population of individuals[.]” The IRS is investigating possible tax evasion by Coinbase users.

**Stray Wi-fi signals may let others peer into closed rooms:** Researchers at Technical University of Munich in Germany successfully created a hologram of a thin 1-meter aluminum cross in a closed room using the radio waves emitted from a wi-fi router.