

Reproduced with permission from Privacy Law Watch, 89 PRA, 5/10/17. Copyright © 2017 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. (800-372-1033) <http://www.bna.com>

Cybersecurity

U.S.-Japan Cyberthreat Sharing Pact May Benefit Companies

A U.S.-Japan cyberthreat sharing agreement will assist companies in the technology-leading countries to better prepare for cyberattacks, privacy professionals told Bloomberg BNA.

Establishing a formal cybersecurity threat information exchange can improve the speed of data sharing between governments and, subsequently, to companies that need to quickly harden their defenses in response to identified threats.

Japan May 4 agreed to participate in the Department of Homeland Security's Automated Information Sharing Platform. The platform established by the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act enables the federal government and companies to share cybersecurity threat information with each other. Threat information, such as malicious internet protocol and email addresses, is then passed on to other company participants to help them defend against attacks.

For U.S. and Japanese companies, the "agreement should add a significant, useful source of cyber threat indicators that companies can receive in near-real-time and use to help defend themselves," Jonathan Meyer, privacy and cybersecurity partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP in Washington, told Bloomberg BNA.

"Having two of the world's technology leaders sharing cyberattack indicators is a critical step to stemming the growing wave of cyberattacks we are seeing today,"

Meyer said. Japan's significance as a player in the cybersecurity realm will only grow "as it prepares to host the 2020 Olympic Games, a potentially inviting target" for cybercriminals, he said.

Enabling Quick Responses Tony Cole, vice president and global government chief technology officer at Fire-Eye Inc., told Bloomberg BNA that sharing data and identifying specific threats as quickly as possible "is critical to mitigating the impact of a breach."

A Fireeye spokesperson also told Bloomberg BNA that Japanese companies often have more sophisticated cybersecurity programs than those in other Asian countries. There is "significant demand" from Japanese companies for global cybersecurity intelligence, the spokesperson said.

DHS also has a cybersecurity threat information sharing agreement with Israel under the CISA program and has had cybersecurity coordination pacts with other countries, including the U.K., predate the program.

A House Homeland Security Committee aide told Bloomberg BNA that Chairman Michael McCaul (R-Texas) has "supported and will continue to support working with our key allies from around the world to improve cybersecurity defenses."

BY GEORGE LYNCH

—With assistance from Daniel R. Stoller in Washington

To contact the reporter on this story: George Lynch in Washington at glynch@bna.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Donald Aplin at daplin@bna.com