SPACE CYBERSECURITY WEEKLY WATCH

W12

March 17 – 23, 2026

Timeframe: Weekly
# of articles identified: 21
Est. time to read: 55 minutes

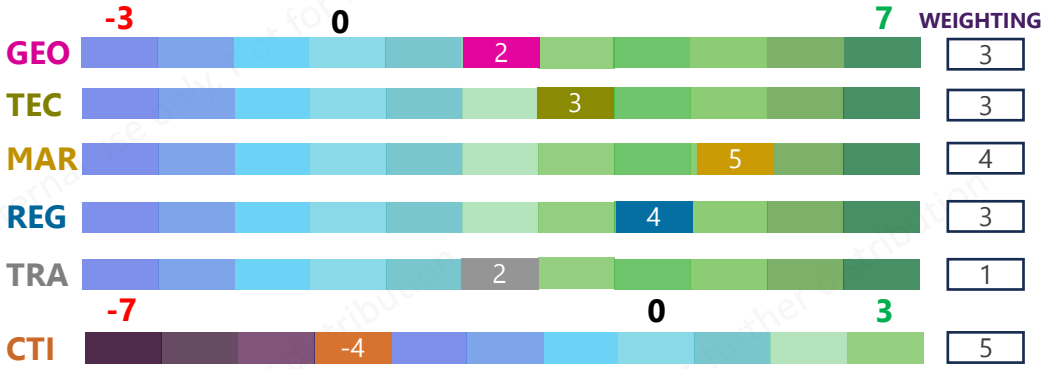
Articles, company's communications, whitepapers, academic works, podcast, and sources not to be missed on the topic of space cybersecurity over a specified timeframe.

- GEOPOLITICS
- TECHNOLOGY
- MARKET & COMPETITION
- REGULATION
- TRAINING & EDUCATION
- THREAT INTELLIGENCE
- IMPORTANT NEWS

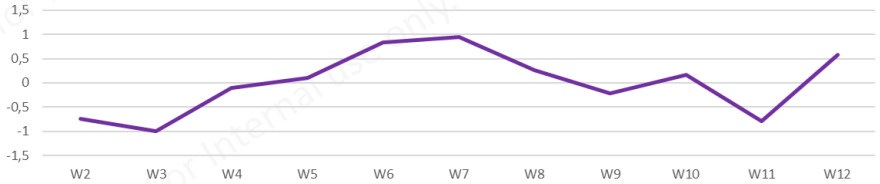
RISC Score Assessment

The RISC score for this watch is 0.58, up from last week due to a good market and technological climate.

Overview & Resilience Index for Space Cybersecurity (RISC)



RISC Score evolution in 2026



This week, **Iran is leveraging Chinese Beidou technology to intensify GPS spoofing and jamming** across the Middle East, significantly enhancing the precision of its missile strikes and targeting capabilities. This collaboration underscores the growing convergence of regional conflicts and space-based warfare, with Beijing's satellite systems enabling Tehran's military operations. Shifting to the regulatory side, there are **increasing questions about the cyber weaponization of the space domain**, where algorithmic warfare, such as GNSS signal manipulation and satellite command hijacking, challenges traditional notions of sovereignty. Furthermore, these multi-domain operations (MDO) operate at speeds and scales that outpace conventional legal frameworks, demanding urgent updates to international space law and cyber norms. On the market front, **the USSF has established new acquisition portfolios dedicated to space control and orbital warfare**, signaling a strategic shift toward proactive capabilities in contested space environments. These portfolios will streamline the development of technologies to counter adversarial threats, from electronic warfare to kinetic operations. Regarding the threat landscape, **experts warn that AI-driven attacks could compromise satellite control systems as early as the coming years**, leading to catastrophic collisions and debris cascades in Earth's orbit. Aging satellites, often lacking robust cybersecurity, are particularly vulnerable to jamming, spoofing, and command takeover, posing risks to both commercial and military operations. Turning to technological advancements, **Spain's GMV Aerospace & Defence, in partnership with ENAIRE and ESA, has developed the STAGER system**, a cost-effective solution for detecting and localizing GNSS spoofing and jamming threats. Lastly, on the training front, **new research introduces i-SDT** (intelligent Self-Defending Digital Twins), a framework designed to discriminate between cyberattack types in industrial cyber-physical systems.

GEOPOLITICS

Iran is using Chinese technology to 'spoof' satellite navigation signals

GPS jamming and spoofing by Iran have intensified dramatically since the outbreak of conflict in the Middle East, creating critical vulnerabilities for both commercial aviation and military operations, according to Jack Hidary, CEO of SandboxAQ. In an interview with CNBC, Hidary warned that Iran is now receiving access to China's Beidou satellite navigation system, enabling greater accuracy in missile strikes and targeting across the region. **#Iran #China**

Source: MSN

[redacted]

REGULATION

[redacted]

Cyber weaponization of space domain: legal aspects of algorithmic warfare

The least dominant of these triads is the Sixth-Domain Warfare, which violates sovereignty by crossing boundaries, undermining Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) signals, algorithmically manipulating Critical Information Infrastructure (CII), and exploiting weaknesses in satellite command and control (C2) systems. It is a space of multi-domain operations (MDO) that is faster and less visible than conventional war, designed to inhabit the real world of tangible things with state and nation-states, and is obsolete. **#Opinion #Cyberwarfare**

Source: Cyber Blog India

MARKET & COMPETITION

New Space Force acquisition portfolios to cover space control, orbital warfare

The Space Force now has put into place all of its mission-focused acquisition portfolios, including offices dedicated to space control and orbital warfare, according to the top space acquisition officer. Tom Ainsworth, who is performing the duties of the Air Force assistant secretary for Space Acquisition and Integration, told the annual McAleese Defense Programs Conference today that while the department is "still working through the detail of which programs specifically go into each one," the final seven portfolio acquisition executive (PAE) offices now are being put in place.

#USSF #Acquisitions

Source: Breaking Defense

[redacted]

[redacted]

MARKET & COMPETITION

THREAT INTELLIGENCE

AI attacks could cause incidents in space as early as the coming years — Space

According to experts, attackers could gain control of satellites and steer them into collisions with other spacecraft. This could trigger a cascade of debris and render Earth's orbit unsafe for future use. Experts also highlight the problem of aging satellites operating without adequate cybersecurity. They can become easy targets for attacks—ranging from signal jamming to command spoofing. **#AI #Satellites**

Sources: SPACE, UA News

THREAT INTELLIGENCE

[redacted]

[redacted]

TECHNOLOGY

[redacted]

New GMV Monitoring System Detects and Localizes GNSS Spoofing and Jamming

Spain's GMV Aerospace & Defence, together with ENAIRE, has developed a cost-effective system capable of detecting and localizing radio-frequency threats to satellite navigation, including spoofing and jamming. Supported by the European Space Agency (ESA) NAVISP program, the STAGER ('Sophisticated GNSS Threats Protection') project addresses the growing challenge posed by deliberate and accidental disruptions to satellite navigation services, an issue of increasing concern for both civil and military sectors. **#STAGER #SILENT**

Source: InsideGNSS

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TRAINING & EDUCATION

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TRAINING & EDUCATION

Cyber-Resilient Digital Twins: Discriminating Attacks for Safe Critical Infrastructure Control

Industrial Cyber-Physical Systems (ICPS) face growing threats from cyber-attacks that exploit sensor and control vulnerabilities. Digital Twin (DT) technology can detect anomalies via predictive modelling, but current methods cannot distinguish attack types and often rely on costly full-system shutdowns. This paper presents i-SDT (intelligent Self-Defending DT), combining hydraulically-regularized predictive modelling, multi-class attack discrimination, and adaptive resilient control. **#Paper #DigitalTwins**

Source: Cornell University