

SPACE CYBERSECURITY WEEKLY WATCH

W17

April 21 – 27, 2026

Timeframe: Weekly

of articles identified: 32

Est. time to read: 70 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.

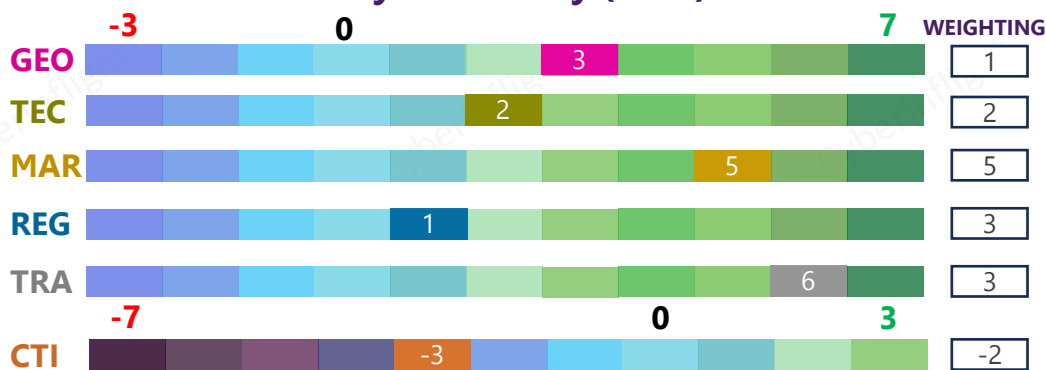
- GEOPOLITICS
- TECHNOLOGY
- MARKET & COMPETITION
- REGULATION
- TRAINING & EDUCATION
- THREAT INTELLIGENCE
- ★ IMPORTANT NEWS

RISC Score Assessment

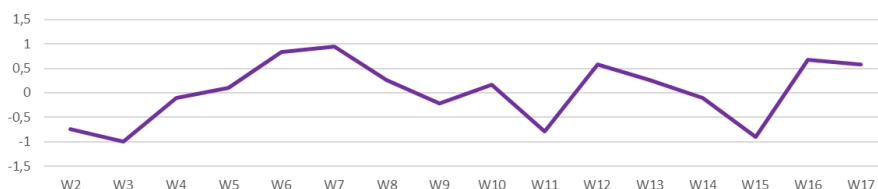


The RISC score for this watch is 0.58, down 0.10 from last week, due to an active threat climate, mixed geopolitical news, and a few regulatory news items.

Overview & Resilience Index for Space Cybersecurity (RISC)



RISC Score evolution in 2026



This week, on the geopolitical side, **the world's largest and most complex international live-fire cyber defense exercise, LOCKED SHIELDS 2026**, with over 4,000 cyber defenders from 41 NATO Allies and partner nations, wrapped up in Tallinn, Estonia. LOCKED SHIELDS aimed to strengthen cyber defense capabilities across Allied and Partner Nations, promoting multinational cooperation and accelerating innovation. On the regulation side, **the EU has proposed a new standalone regulation to set out the tasks and operating rules for the future European Union Space Services Agency (EUSSA)**, currently known as the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA).

On the market front, **Thales Alenia Space, Airbus Defence and Space, and Polish company RADMOR will jointly deliver a new geostationary telecommunications satellite to the Polish Ministry of Defence**. On the threat side, **Ukrainian cyber specialists have breached "Gonets," a Russian low-orbit satellite communications system marketed as Moscow's answer to Starlink**. On the technological side, in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor in May 2025, **India's electronic warfare doctrine has undergone a marked transition from conventional noise-based jamming to a far more sophisticated paradigm centered on electronic warfare**. Lastly, the **U.S. Cyber Halo Innovation Research Program (CHIRP) handbook** outlines a comprehensive framework designed to advance space cybersecurity education, workforce development, recruitment efforts for United States Space Force (USSF) Space Systems Command (SSC) and the Department of the Airforce, and foster students' professional growth.

GEOPOLITICS



The U.S. must defend the front frontier against cyberattacks

The U.S. must defend the front frontier against cyberattacks, according to a report from the House of Representatives. The report, titled "The U.S. must defend the front frontier against cyberattacks," was released on April 21, 2026. It calls for the U.S. to take a more aggressive approach to cyber defense, including the development of new technologies and the establishment of a cyber defense force.

Source: [The Hill](#)



Cyber Defenders put to the test during exercise Locked Shields 2026

The world's largest and most complex international live-fire cyber defense exercise, LOCKED SHIELDS 2026, with over 4,000 cyber defenders from 41 NATO Allies and partner nations, wrapped up on Thursday, Apr. 23, 2026, in Tallinn, Estonia. For 3 days, participants trained against real-time cyberattacks on critical infrastructure and national information technology (IT) systems, including a wide range of specialized systems requiring protection, such as 5G infrastructure, satellite management systems, power grids, and electronic voting systems. LOCKED SHIELDS aimed to strengthen cyber defense capabilities across Allied and Partner Nations, promoting multinational cooperation and accelerating innovation.

#LockedShields #NATO

Sources: [NATO](#), [The Manila Times](#), [Defence Industry Europe](#)



France and Poland launch joint military satellite project as NATO focuses on defense agenda

France and Poland have launched a joint military satellite project, marking a significant step in their defense cooperation. The project, titled "Joint Military Satellite Project," aims to develop a new generation of military satellites that will be capable of providing real-time intelligence and communication capabilities. The project is being led by France and Poland, with other NATO members providing support.

Source: [The Hill](#)



China's cyber capabilities now equal to the U.S., warns British intelligence

British intelligence has warned that China's cyber capabilities are now on par with those of the United States. The warning was issued in a report titled "China's cyber capabilities now equal to the U.S.," which was released on April 21, 2026. The report states that China has made significant progress in its cyber capabilities, particularly in the areas of intelligence gathering and cyber warfare.

Source: [The Hill](#)



The weapons that will win the war

The weapons that will win the war, according to a report from the House of Representatives. The report, titled "The weapons that will win the war," was released on April 21, 2026. It calls for the U.S. to develop new technologies and weapons that will be capable of defeating the threats posed by Russia and China. The report also calls for the U.S. to establish a new defense department to oversee the development and deployment of these weapons.

Source: [The Hill](#)



Russia's shadow satellites: U.S. defense operational as critical nations stand up assets

The U.S. defense is operational as critical nations stand up assets, according to a report from the House of Representatives. The report, titled "Russia's shadow satellites: U.S. defense operational as critical nations stand up assets," was released on April 21, 2026. It states that the U.S. has established a new defense force that will be capable of defeating the threats posed by Russia and China. The report also calls for the U.S. to establish a new defense department to oversee the development and deployment of these assets.

Source: [The Hill](#)



REGULATION



EU's updated space program aims to balance global aid with military needs

The EU has proposed a new standalone regulation to set out the tasks and operating rules for the future European Union Space Services Agency (EUSSA), currently known as the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA). The draft regulation is intended to guarantee the agency's operations and reflects a planned name change, the European Commission announced on Tuesday. It said the EU's space work covers areas including satellite navigation, Earth observation, secure connectivity, space situational awareness (tracking objects and risks in space), and space transportation, for both civil and defense applications. #EUSSA #EUSPA

Source: [The Brussels Times](#)



MARKET & COMPETITION

ESA completes the Sentinel-1B Phase 1, enhancing satellite's space operations
ESA is completing the Sentinel-1B Phase 1, enhancing satellite's space operations. The Sentinel-1B satellite is the second in a series of Sentinel-1 satellites, which are part of the Copernicus programme. The Sentinel-1B satellite is currently in orbit and is providing data to the Sentinel-1A satellite. The Sentinel-1B satellite is also being used for a variety of other purposes, including monitoring the environment and managing natural resources.

Read the story

Sources: [ESA](#)



Lockheed and generalist aerospace: Navigating unique roles in the Texas aerospace industry

In the world where the Texas is a major aerospace hub, the two major roles fall to Lockheed and generalist aerospace. Lockheed is a major player in the aerospace industry, with a long history of developing and manufacturing aircraft, missiles, and spacecraft. Generalist aerospace companies, on the other hand, are typically involved in a wide range of aerospace activities, from the design and development of aircraft to the manufacturing and assembly of spacecraft.

Read the story



Space Force exceeds 90.2% GPS ground system after years of cost overruns and delays

The U.S. Space Force has exceeded its 90.2% GPS ground system after years of cost overruns and delays. The system is used to track and control the GPS satellites in orbit. The Space Force has been working to improve the system for several years, and this achievement is a significant milestone. The system is also being used for a variety of other purposes, including navigation and timing.

Read the story



★ Thales Alenia and partners to help build military satellite for Poland

Poland is strengthening its defence infrastructure in space with a new geostationary telecommunications satellite. Thales Alenia Space, Airbus Defence and Space, and Polish company RADMOR will jointly deliver the system for the Polish Ministry of Defence. **#SATCOM #Poland**

Sources: [Orbital Today](#), [ViaSatellite](#)



Spain launches its cyberintelligence satellite with the acquisition of Spacelink

The Spanish government has launched its cyberintelligence satellite with the acquisition of Spacelink. The satellite is used to monitor and analyze cyber threats. The Spanish government has been working to improve its cyberintelligence capabilities for several years, and this acquisition is a significant milestone.

Read the story



Lockheed Martin launches GPS III satellite

The U.S. Space Force and Lockheed Martin have launched the GPS III satellite. The satellite is used to track and control the GPS satellites in orbit. The Space Force has been working to improve the GPS system for several years, and this launch is a significant milestone.

Read the story



Orbital and ESA/ESA completes first round of space operations pilot phase

Orbital and ESA/ESA have completed the first round of space operations pilot phase. The pilot phase was used to test the new space operations system. The system is used to track and control the GPS satellites in orbit. The Space Force has been working to improve the GPS system for several years, and this pilot phase is a significant milestone.

Read the story



THREAT INTELLIGENCE

USAF defends cyberspace and information network operations

A recent USAF document outlines a series of cyber operations and information network operations. The document is used to track and control the GPS satellites in orbit. The Space Force has been working to improve the GPS system for several years, and this document is a significant milestone.

Read the story



★ Ukraine's cyber division infiltrates Russian military satellite comms "Gonets" in multi-year breach

Ukrainian cyber specialists have breached "Gonets," a Russian low-orbit satellite communications system marketed as Moscow's answer to Starlink. **#CYBINT #Gonets**

Sources: [United24](#), [InformNapalm](#)



THREAT INTELLIGENCE

Germany moves toward space warfare satellite jamming plans using satellites in Europe

Germany is currently working on satellite jamming operations, including in the space sector. The Federal Office of Cybersecurity (BSF) is working on the development of satellite jamming capabilities. According to the report, Germany is in talks with the American company Lockheed Martin regarding the potential acquisition of the Mithras satellite. The report also states that Germany is currently using the Mithras satellite for intelligence gathering and satellite jamming. [Mithras Satellite](#)

Sources: [The Guardian](#)



NSA investigators expose a Chinese national plotting for defense software

The NSA, NSA employees, and NSA contractors have been working on defense software with various countries. They were working on defense software for a Chinese national who was working on defense software. The NSA is working on defense software for a Chinese national who was working on defense software. The NSA is working on defense software for a Chinese national who was working on defense software. [NSA Report](#)

Sources: [The Guardian](#)



TECHNOLOGY

How hard is it to get satellite security off the ground? Not hard

It is not hard to get satellite security off the ground. It is not hard to get satellite security off the ground. It is not hard to get satellite security off the ground. It is not hard to get satellite security off the ground. It is not hard to get satellite security off the ground. [The Guardian](#)

Sources: [The Guardian](#)



Education & cyberattacks about 19th century for space projects

There is a lot of interest in the 19th century for space projects. There is a lot of interest in the 19th century for space projects. There is a lot of interest in the 19th century for space projects. There is a lot of interest in the 19th century for space projects. There is a lot of interest in the 19th century for space projects. [The Guardian](#)

Sources: [The Guardian](#)

Space mission launch advances 10% according to experts

A new report says that the launch of space missions is advancing 10% according to experts. A new report says that the launch of space missions is advancing 10% according to experts. A new report says that the launch of space missions is advancing 10% according to experts. A new report says that the launch of space missions is advancing 10% according to experts. [The Guardian](#)

Sources: [The Guardian](#)



Improving security and trust in space: Toshiba Europe's Cambridge Research Laboratory takes on the challenges of global quantum safe communications

In a recent study, Toshiba Europe's Cambridge Research Laboratory has taken on the challenges of global quantum safe communications. In a recent study, Toshiba Europe's Cambridge Research Laboratory has taken on the challenges of global quantum safe communications. In a recent study, Toshiba Europe's Cambridge Research Laboratory has taken on the challenges of global quantum safe communications. In a recent study, Toshiba Europe's Cambridge Research Laboratory has taken on the challenges of global quantum safe communications. [The Guardian](#)

Sources: [The Guardian](#)



India adopts cognitive Electronic Warfare to defeat SAR satellites with “ghosting” and “erasure” deception techniques

In the aftermath of Operation Sindoor in May 2025, India's electronic warfare doctrine has undergone a marked transition from conventional noise-based jamming to a far more sophisticated paradigm centered on electronic warfare. **#India #EW**

Sources: [Indian Defence Research Wing](#), [Youtube](#)



TRAINING & EDUCATION

Implementing the Space Protection Act from Sweden

Sweden has implemented the Space Protection Act from Sweden. Sweden has implemented the Space Protection Act from Sweden. Sweden has implemented the Space Protection Act from Sweden. Sweden has implemented the Space Protection Act from Sweden. Sweden has implemented the Space Protection Act from Sweden. [The Guardian](#)

Sources: [The Guardian](#)

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Minimum Working with Space at the NATO Cybersecurity Open Forum

Minimum Working with Space at the NATO Cybersecurity Open Forum will be held on April 22 in Washington, DC at the upcoming "Improving the NATO Cybersecurity" conference. The forum will focus on the role of space in cybersecurity and the challenges of space cybersecurity.

Source: [NATO](#)



Education Cybersecurity Alliance for Innovation Detection (EAD-ED) Labelled NATO/CSSC Cybersecurity

The EAD-ED Labelled NATO/CSSC Cybersecurity is a program that aims to improve the cybersecurity of space systems. It is a joint effort between NATO and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

Source: [NATO](#)



Postgraduate Cybersecurity for Space Systems: Algorithms, Implementation, and Design

The course will cover the design and implementation of space systems, including the development of algorithms and the implementation of the design. It will also cover the design and implementation of space systems, including the development of algorithms and the implementation of the design.

Source: [NATO](#)



Secure User Platform (SUSP) 2 - Episode 2: Space Cyber

The episode of Secure User Platform (SUSP) 2, Episode 2: Space Cyber, is a video that discusses the challenges of space cybersecurity and the role of space systems in cybersecurity.

Source: [NATO](#)



Cyber Halo Innovation Research Program (CHIRP) handbook: CHIRP program document 2026

The Cyber Halo Innovation Research Program (CHIRP) handbook outlines a comprehensive framework designed to advance space cybersecurity education, workforce development, recruitment efforts for United States Space Force (USSF) Space Systems Command (SSC) and the Department of the Airforce, and foster students' professional growth. It provides an overview of CHIRP's objectives and strategic focus, establishing the foundation for participant engagement through a network of collaborations with academic institutions, contracted industry partners, training and certification organizations, federal agencies, and community organizations. It states a clear participation strategy for SSC and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) for program execution and successful support for student transition to a career in space cybersecurity. **#CyberHalo #Education**

Source: [PNNL](#)



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Source: [NATO](#)



Cybersecurity in space: Building networks, supply chains & architectures

The course will cover the design and implementation of space systems, including the development of algorithms and the implementation of the design. It will also cover the design and implementation of space systems, including the development of algorithms and the implementation of the design.

Source: [NATO](#)

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Source: [NATO](#)



CyberInflight is a Market Intelligence company dedicated to the topic of Space Cybersecurity. The company provides strategic market and research reports, bespoke consulting, market watch & OSINT researches and cybersecurity awareness training.

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