SPACE CYBERSECURITY WEEKLY WATCH

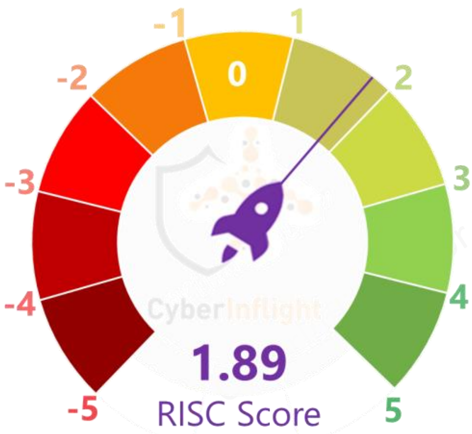
Week 35
August 27 – September 2, 2024

Timeframe : Weekly
# of articles identified : 29
Est. time to read : 30 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 INTELLIGENCE
- REGULATION
- TRAINING & EDUCATION
- THREAT INTELLIGENCE
- IMPORTANT NEWS

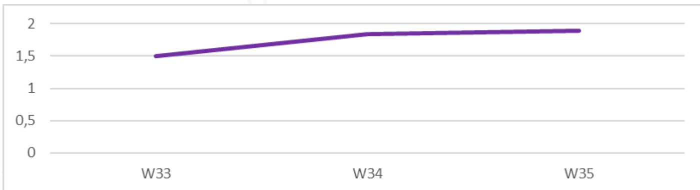
RISC Score Assesment



Overview & Resilience Index for Space Cybersecurity (RISC)

	Score (scale -5 to 5; CTI -7 to 3)	WEIGHTING
GEO	1	3
TEC	4	2
MAR	4	4
REG	3	3
TRA	3	1
CTI	-3	5

RISC Score Evolution



This week's RISC score is 1.89, a slight increase from last week, mainly due to new contracts awarded and recent technological progress.

On the geopolitical front, Monday, September 2, SpaceX's Falcon 9 will launch the third batch of satellites for a reconnaissance satellite constellation built by SpaceX and Northrop Grumman for the National Reconnaissance Office to provide imaging and other reconnaissance capabilities. The satellite's structure follows the NRO's new concept of space architecture by using many smaller satellites to create constellations that will insure resistance from attacks. On the technological side, Thales Alenia Space has revealed the results of their ASCEND feasibility study on the development of space-based data centers. The study explores the potential for deploying data centers in space to enhance data processing and storage capabilities. On the market front, Atheras Analytics has been selected by the UK Ministry of Defence to conduct Ka-band propagation analysis for the proposed Skynet 6 ground station sites. This analysis is vital for ensuring the efficiency and reliability of the UK's next-generation military satellite communications. On the regulatory front, a paper examining the importance of international cooperation in establishing an effective legal framework to address cyber threats against satellites has been published by Hasanuddin University (Indonesia). On the Threat Intel side, a group of Iranian cyber actors acts as access brokers for ransomware gangs and collaborates with affiliates to target the US and its allies, exploiting vulnerabilities across different sectors. The group's focus spans across multiple critical US industries, including defense and space. Lastly, NASA's Independent Verification & Validation (IV&V) program has initiated a cybersecurity educational outreach program aimed at fostering cybersecurity awareness and skills among students. This initiative is part of NASA's efforts to strengthen cybersecurity capabilities in the space industry.

GEOPOLITICS

SpaceX plans NROL-113 launch of reconnaissance satellites for secret government mission

Monday, September 2, SpaceX's Falcon 9 will launch the third batch of satellites for a reconnaissance satellite constellation built by SpaceX and Northrop Grumman for the National Reconnaissance Office to provide imaging and other reconnaissance capabilities. The satellite's structure follows the NRO's new concept of space architecture by using many smaller satellites to create constellations that will insure resistance from attacks. **#SpaceX #SIGINT**

Link: https://news.satnews.com/2024/08/28/spacex-plans-nrol-113-launch-of-reconnaissance-satellites-for-secret-government-mission/

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TECHNOLOGY

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Thales Alenia Space completes ASCEND feasibility study on space data centers

Thales Alenia Space has revealed the results of their ASCEND feasibility study on the development of space-based data centers. The study explores the potential for deploying data centers in space to enhance data processing and storage capabilities, catering to the growing demands of the digital age. **#SpaceDataCenters #Thales**

Link: https://spacewatchafrica.com/thales-alenia-space-reveals-results-of-ascend-feasibility-study-on-space-data-centers-3/c

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MARKET & COMPETITION

Atheras Analytics chosen by UK MoD for Ka-Band propagation analysis for Skynet 6

Atheras Analytics has been selected by the UK Ministry of Defence to conduct Ka-band propagation analysis for the proposed Skynet 6 ground station sites. This analysis is vital for ensuring the efficiency and reliability of the UK's next-generation military satellite communications. **#UKDefence #SatelliteData**

Link: https://www.satcom.digital/news/atheras-analytics-selected-by-uk-mod-to-provide-ka-band-propagation-analysis-for-proposed-skynet-6-ground-station-sites

REGULATION

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★ Satellite cybersecurity: integration of international law and geopolitical strategy

This article examines the importance of international cooperation in establishing an effective legal framework to address cyber threats against satellites. In this context, collaboration among nations is essential to develop global cybersecurity standards capable of protecting critical infrastructure from attacks that could disrupt international stability. This study emphasizes that the synergy between international law and geopolitical strategy can create a safer and more resilient environment for satellite operations in the future. **#Cooperation #CriticalInfra**

Link: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4918410

TRAINING & EDUCATION

★ NASA IV&V launches cybersecurity educational outreach program

NASA's Independent Verification & Validation (IV&V) program has initiated a cybersecurity educational outreach program aimed at fostering cybersecurity awareness and skills among students. This initiative is part of NASA's efforts to strengthen cybersecurity capabilities in the space industry. **#CybersecurityEducation #NASATraining**

Link: https://thecyberexpress.com/nasa-ivv-cybersecurity-educational-outreach/

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THREAT INTELLIGENCE

Iranian state hackers act as access brokers for ransomware gangs, target US and allies' critical infrastructure

A shadowy group of Iranian cyber actors is acting as access brokers for ransomware gangs and collaborating with affiliates to target the U.S. and its allies, exploiting vulnerabilities across different sectors. The FBI, CISA, and the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3) warned that these actors, believed to be state-sponsored, are focusing aggressively on access brokering and enabling ransomware attacks. The group's focus spans across multiple critical US industries, including education, finance, healthcare, and defense, as well as government entities. **#Iran #CriticalInfra**

Link: https://thecyberexpress.com/iranian-access-brokers-for-ransomware/

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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