SPACE CYBERSECURITY WEEKLY WATCH

Week 33

August 12 - 18, 2025

Timeframe: Weekly

# of articles identified: 26

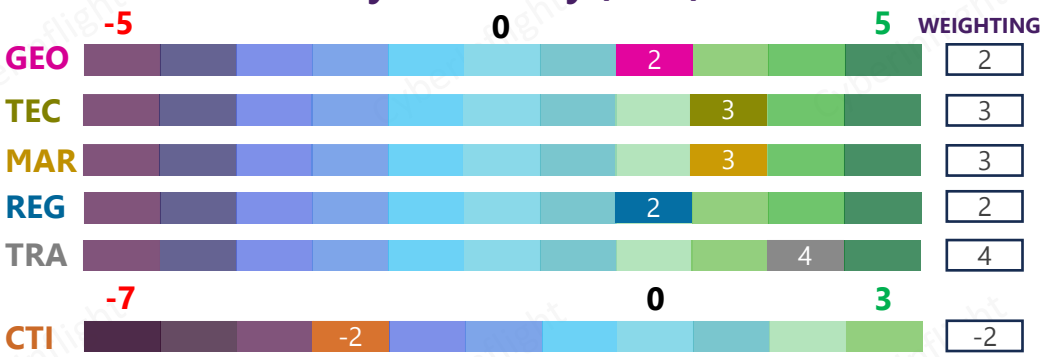
Est. time to read: 55 minutes

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

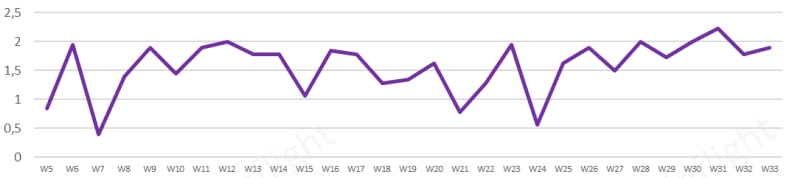
- GEOPOLITICS
- TECHNOLOGY
- MARKET & COMPETITION
- REGULATION
- TRAINING & EDUCATION
- THREAT INTELLIGENCE
- IMPORTANT NEWS

RISC Score Assessment

Overview & Resilience Index for Space Cybersecurity (RISC)



RISC Score evolution in 2025



The RISC score for this watch is 1.89, reflecting a slight increase from last week. This stable situation is due to a calm threat intelligence environment, coupled with initiatives in the geopolitical, regulatory, and market domains, as well as a strong focus on education.

This week was marked by the successful launch of the US Air Force's Navigation Technology Satellite-3 (NTS-3) on a ULA Vulcan rocket, designed to test advanced anti-spoofing signals, a steerable phased-array antenna, and autonomous receivers to enhance national security and PNT capabilities. On the regulatory front, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order to streamline regulations and foster a competitive commercial space industry, ensuring the United States maintains its leading role in the commercial use of space. Among the Space Policy Directives (SPDs) is one focused on establishing cybersecurity principles for space systems. In the technology sector, NIST finalized its 'lightweight cryptography' standard to safeguard small devices. Four related algorithms are now available to protect data created and transmitted by the Internet of Things and other electronic devices. They provide cyber defense, making it suitable for critical embedded systems in PNT and space applications. Turning to the market front, the French Directorate General of Armaments (DGA) awarded the PALADIN (Positioning and Autonomous Laser Assisted Detection in Near-space) framework agreement to French New Space company Infinite Orbits, with a maximum value of €50m. Regarding threat intelligence, AP News released an analysis highlighting the growing risks of hijacked satellites and orbiting space weapons, emphasizing that space has become a new battlefield in the 21st century. Lastly, an interview with the head of space policy and tech for the Estonian government explained how cybersecurity helped Estonia carve a niche in space.

GEOPOLITICS

US Air Force launches Navigation Technology Satellite-3 to enhance national security and PNT capabilities

The US Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) has achieved a significant milestone in enhancing the nation's navigation capabilities with the successful launch of the Navigation Technology Satellite-3 (NTS-3). This satellite was placed into orbit on a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Vulcan rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida on August 12. The satellite will test new anti-spoofing signals, a steerable phased-array antenna to send signals to ground forces in high-jamming areas, and receivers to help the satellite operate without instructions from ground controllers. **#Vulcan #NTS-3**

Link: https://newsroom.ulalaunch.com/releases/vulcan-rocket-ushers-in-new-era-of-national-security-space-launch

REGULATION

President Donald J. Trump enables competition in the commercial space industry

President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to streamline regulations and foster a competitive commercial space industry, ensuring the United States maintains its leading role in the commercial use of space. The White House press release states that President Trump has issued seven Space Policy Directives (SPDs), one of which is aimed at establishing cybersecurity principles for space systems. **#ExecutiveOrder #SpaceIndustry**

Link: https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/08/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-enables-competition-in-the-commercial-space-industry/

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TECHNOLOGY

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NIST finalizes 'lightweight cryptography' standard to protect small devices

Four related algorithms are now ready for use to protect data created and transmitted by the Internet of Things and other electronics. NIST's newly finalized lightweight cryptography standard provides a defense from cyberattacks for even the smallest of networked electronic devices. The standard uses the Ascon family of algorithms, offering authenticated encryption and hashing functions resistant to side-channel attacks. It protects data, making it suitable for critical embedded systems in PNT and space applications. **#NIST #Cryptography**

Link: https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2025/08/nist-finalizes-lightweight-cryptography-standard-protect-small-devices

MARKET & COMPETITION

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France seeks to safeguard its military assets across space orbits with PALADIN satellite

The Directorate General of Armaments (DGA) awarded the PALADIN (Positioning and Autonomous Laser Assisted Detection in Near-space) framework agreement to French New Space company Infinite Orbits for a maximum value of €50m. The contract tasks Infinite Orbits with delivering a geostationary Earth orbit (GEO) inspection and surveillance service to the French Space Command (CDE) under the national Action and Resilience in Space (ARES) program. The PALADIN satellite, slated for launch in 2027, will build upon the company's Orbit Guard platform and be supported by developments funded through the France 2030 investment plan coordinated by the National Center for Space Studies (CNES). **#PALADIN #Contract**

Link: https://armyrecognition.com/news/aerospace-news/2025/france-seeks-to-safeguard-its-military-assets-across-space-orbits-with-paladin-satellite

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THREAT INTELLIGENCE

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Hijacked satellites and orbiting space weapons: In the 21st century, space is the new battlefield

More than 12,000 operating satellites now orbit the planet, playing a critical role in military operations, navigation systems like GPS, intelligence gathering and economic supply chains. They are also key to early launch-detection efforts, which can warn of approaching missiles. That makes them a significant national security vulnerability, and a prime target for anyone looking to undermine an adversary's economy or military readiness — or to deliver a psychological blow like the hackers supporting Russia did when they hijacked television signals to Ukraine. **#GPSJamming #Vulnerability**

Link: https://apnews.com/article/space-weapons-trump-satellites-russia-0fdd31a1e3d350a54823e8a3d228fc17

TRAINING & EDUCATION

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How cybersecurity helped Estonia carve a niche in space

According to Paul Liias, head of space policy and tech for the Estonian government, the country has played a key role in providing cyber defenses for space programs, including its cyber-range used by NATO for testing defense tools. In this video interview with Information Security Media Group, Liias discussed cybersecurity challenges facing space infrastructure today - at both satellites and ground stations; How to protect aerial drones against GNSS jamming or spoofing; and Preparing Estonia's workforce for space cybersecurity. **#CyberDefense #Interview**

Link: https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/how-cybersecurity-helped-estonia-carve-niche-in-space-a-29236

TRAINING & EDUCATION

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TRAINING & EDUCATION

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.
Contact us at: research@cyberinflight.com