

## US Commerce Dept Shares Tips On Securing Virtual Meetings

By Sergiu Gatlan, Bleeping Computer

The US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) today shared a number of measures that should be taken by remote workers to prevent eavesdropping and protect their privacy during virtual meetings while working from home during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Jeff Greene, the director of the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) at the NIST said that "if virtual meetings are not set up correctly, former coworkers, disgruntled employees, or hackers might be able to eavesdrop."

"Using some basic precautions can help ensure that your meetings are an opportunity to collaborate and work effectively – and not the genesis of a data breach or other embarrassing and costly security or privacy incident."

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/us-commerce-dept-shares-tips-on-securing-virtual-meetings/>

## 2020 Annual Security Refresher Training

Please don't wait until the end of 2020 to complete this required training!

The **REQUIRED** 2020 Annual Security Training is being offered on-line at this current time. ORS is hoping we can offer in person presentations this fall. April McMeans will be sending emails starting May 1. Once you receive your email, you can then move forward with completing your refresher training.



## Dubious conferences put the ‘pose’ in ‘symposium’

By Adam Ruben, Science

It was a proud moment for me as a scientist. A few years ago, on a random Tuesday morning, I opened my laptop and found an email inviting me to speak at an international scientific conference in Dalian, China.

“Wow!” I thought. “Someone has heard about my work! I’ve never been to China! This will be a life-changing, career-benefiting experience!”

I was so excited that I showed my colleague at the next desk. “Look!” I said. “I’ve been invited to speak in China!”

Without saying anything, she quickly searched her own email. The result was a whole “Deleted Files” folder full of invitations for her to speak at international conferences.

“These are like junk mail,” she explained. “I get these every day. I think a lot of scientists do.”

I didn’t understand. Of course I know about junk email—nearly everyone does, except maybe my mother, who forwards me anything with the subject line “This simple step could save your life!” But this was something new and confusing, at least to me. Junk conferences? How would that even work? Were these scams intent on pocketing registration fees, or did they lead to actual conferences one could attend?

<https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2016/11/dubious-conferences-put-pose-symposium>



## Academia and Espionage: How Do We Make Progress But Keep Secrets?

By John Davis, Clearance Jobs

Over the past several months Chinese ‘wanderers’ have successfully gained access to and photographed American military installations. One claimed to be a lost tourist, and was picked up wading in the rocks to get around fences at a Florida base. A car of allegedly lost Chinese failed to leave a base once denied entry; they didn’t turn around but continuing on into the compound until apprehended. Another woman was stopped having attempted to access the President’s Mar-a-Lago Resort. Why does this happen, and why with such frequency? Perhaps history provides clues.

Few know that the German *Luftwaffe* had a functioning helicopter at the end of World War II. A Flettner 282, complete with swastika, can be seen in a photograph confiscated by the U.S. Army at the end of the war. This strange aircraft was tested by Army Materiel Command. At the dawn of the helicopter age, the Flettner had a unique means to overcome torque problems: it intermeshed two contra-rotating blades. At that same time, an American test vehicle used a tail rotor on the main boom to overcome the same problem. All of this was available for an investment of 25 cents in a 1947 issue of Popular Mechanics.

In those days, when America was at the top of a war devastated world, few thought of protecting our information. We were well-prepared for physical security. We had long lines of workers who had to display work badges to get on locations like Aberdeen Proving Grounds. But once on, a reporter could wander more or less at will, interviewing whomever he wanted.

<https://news.clearancejobs.com/2020/02/27/academia-and-espionage-how-do-we-make-progress-but-keep-secrets/>

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