



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

<https://asce.tamus.edu>

# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**August 24, 2022**

## **EX-DOE STAFFER EXPOSES HOW CHINESE SPIES ARE TRYING TO STEAL US INTELLIGENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

*Jerry Dunleavy | Restoring America - Washington Examiner | August 18, 2022*

A former top Department of Energy official revealed details about the Chinese government's efforts to conduct espionage against American technology, warning the United States must do more to protect U.S. innovation. Paul Dabbar, who worked as the undersecretary for science at the Energy Department throughout the Trump administration, said his experience in that position gave him worrying insight into Beijing's efforts to recruit U.S. scientists and to abscond with scientific knowledge. The intelligence community has spoken about the challenge posed by China, and the FBI has repeatedly warned about its Thousand Talents economic espionage program. "When I joined the U.S. Department of Energy in 2017, I was briefed about how pervasively the Chinese Communist Party had woven itself into the U.S. government's research and innovation efforts," Dabbar wrote in an opinion piece for the Wall Street Journal. "Traditionally, labs and academic institutions around the world and their researchers work on projects together. And periodically, foreign institutions, including in China, compensate Americans for their efforts."

Read the full article [here](#).

## **QUANTUM COMPUTING WILL BE BIGGER THAN THE DISCOVERY OF FIRE!**

*Luke Lango | InvestorPlace | August 19, 2022*

It's commonly appreciated that the discovery of fire was the most profound revolution in human history. And yesterday, I read that a major director at Bank of America (BAC) thinks a technology that hardly anyone is talking about these days could be more critical for humankind than fire! That's about as bold of a claim as you could make when it comes to technological megatrends. If true, this tech could be the most promising and lucrative investment opportunity of anyone's lifetime. The director's name? Haim Israel, head of global thematic investing research at BofA. In his words, this technology could create "a revolution for humanity bigger than fire, bigger than the wheel." What on Earth is Mr. Israel talking about? Two words: Quantum Computing. I'll start by saying that the underlying physics of this breakthrough — quantum mechanics — is highly complex. It would likely require over 500 pages to fully understand. But, alas, here's my best job at making a Cliff's Notes version in 500 words instead. For centuries, scientists have developed, tested, and validated the laws of the physical world, known as classical mechanics. These scientifically explain how and why things work, where they come from, so on and so forth.

Read the full article [here](#).



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

## **CHINA-BOUND EX-APPLE ENGINEER ADMITS TO TRADE SECRETS THEFT**

*Robert Burnson | The Japan Times | August 23, 2022*

A former Apple engineer has pleaded guilty to criminal charges that he stole proprietary information from the company while preparing to go work for a Chinese startup that makes electric cars with autonomous driving features. Zhang Xiaolang, who was arrested in July 2018 on his way to catch a one-way flight to China, admitted to a single count of trade-secret theft at a hearing Monday in federal court in San Jose, California, according to the court's electronic docket. A judge ordered his plea agreement to be filed under seal from public view and set Zhang's sentencing for Nov. 14. Trade-secret theft carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. U.S. prosecutors accused Zhang of downloading a 25-page Apple document to his wife's computer that included schematic drawings of a circuit board design for a portion of an autonomous vehicle. Apple hired Zhang in 2015 to work as a hardware engineer in its autonomous car project, which has yet to generate a commercial product. In April 2018, Zhang announced his intention to resign, saying he wanted to return to China to be near his ailing mother and that he intended to take a job at Xpeng Inc. Zhang's lawyer, Daniel Olmos, declined to comment on the plea agreement. Xpeng said in a statement it was aware of the latest developments in the case from media reports, but is "not clear about the details, nor involved in further investigation conducted by U.S. law enforcement."

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## **3 WAYS CHINA'S ACCESS TO TIKTOK DATA IS A SECURITY RISK**

*Andrada Fiscutean | CSO | August 15, 2022*

The short-video platform TikTok has come under fire in recent months. Both lawmakers and citizens in the U.S. have questioned its data collection practices and potential ties to the Chinese state. The concerns have deepened after BuzzFeed published a report saying that data of some American users had been repeatedly accessed from China. TikTok's parent company, Beijing-based ByteDance, denied that it shared information with the Chinese government and announced that it had migrated its U.S. user traffic to servers operated by Oracle. Still, it was not enough to clear the air, and security and privacy experts continued to be worried. "Politics and business in China are inseparable," said Joseph Williams, partner, cybersecurity, at Infosys Consulting. He argues that "the Chinese government could focus on specific users, specific keywords, or specific video sequences to identify whatever they might find interesting." Theoretically, TikTok could collect all kinds of data, including text, images, videos, location, metadata, draft messages, fingerprints, or browsing history. The platform, which has grown rapidly in the past few years, exceeds 1 billion monthly active users globally, 100 million of which were based in the U.S. According to a Pew Research Center survey, 67% of American teens have installed this app more than Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook or Twitter.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## **HOW THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY STEALS U.S. TECHNOLOGY**

*Paul Dabbar | The Wall Street Journal | August 17, 2022*

When I joined the U.S. Department of Energy in 2017, I was briefed about how pervasively the Chinese Communist Party had woven itself into the U.S. government's research and innovation efforts. Traditionally, labs and academic institutions around the world and their researchers work on projects together. And periodically, foreign institutions, including in China, compensate Americans for their efforts. The Communist Party began to use these interactions to recruit people for their technology-appropriation programs. I should...

Read the full article [here](#).

**Academic Security and Counter Exploitation Program | The Open Source Media Summary | August 24, 2022 | Page 2 of 4**



## **DEFINING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN A NEW GEOPOLITICAL ERA**

*Roopa Desai Trilokekar | University World News | August 20, 2022*

This is an era of new geopolitics. In this era, we find ourselves in a world that is increasingly multilateral, polyilateral and de-Westernised – defined by the preponderance of Western powers and the transition of power from West to East. Some describe it as the emergence of a new Cold War, a period of new ‘great game’ competition between major powers such as Russia, but also increasingly China. In particular, China’s growing assertiveness and geopolitical ambitions have increased bipolarity between China and the United States and generated a new geopolitical rivalry with the West. So how does this affect international education – which encompasses exchanges, research partnerships, study abroad programmes, virtual exchanges, foreign campuses, degree-seeking international students and more – as a tool of government foreign policy? By comparing the US and Canada, two Western countries experiencing shifting discourses on international education as a result of political discord with China and which share certain baseline similarities as well as growing ideological differences, we can provide a deeper contextual analysis of how different governments engage in international education in the context of the new geopolitics.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## **CHINA COULD BE REVIEWING SECURITY BUGS BEFORE TECH COMPANIES ISSUE PATCHES, DHS OFFICIAL SAYS**

*Suzanne Smalley | CyberScoop | August 10, 2022*

The Chinese government appears to use its software vulnerability disclosure rules to preview dangerous zero-day flaws before tech companies can deploy fixes, a top Department of Homeland Security official said Wednesday. Beijing’s strict vulnerability reporting rules mean government officials could get “early access” to even the most serious vulnerabilities, DHS Under Secretary for Policy Robert Silvers said during the Black Hat cybersecurity conference in Las Vegas. If the Chinese government is analyzing zero-days, or previously unknown software flaws, before affected companies can deploy a fix, Beijing could gain the upper hand when carrying out cyberattacks against the U.S. or other digital adversaries. Silvers said that a DHS review board assembled to investigate the recent Log4j software vulnerability, which was initially discovered by the Chinese tech giant Alibaba, concluded its inquiry with “very troubling” questions about Chinese disclosure rules. In the case of the Log4j vulnerability, however, Alibaba revealed the flaw prior to notifying the Chinese government, according to Silvers. “Alibaba did the right thing,” he said. But, Silvers said, the review board’s findings suggest Alibaba was likely punished by the Chinese government, raising questions about whether and how Chinese officials use security disclosure information. Chinese companies are required to report vulnerabilities to the government within two days of discovering them.

Read the full article [here](#).

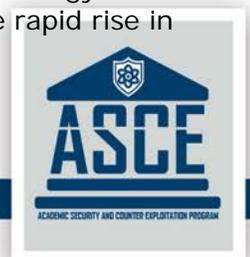
---

## **CHINA BEATS US IN MOST-CITED SCIENCE PAPERS, MOVING TO TOP OF NEW RANKINGS: REPORT**

*Ling Xin | South China Morning Post | August 18, 2022*

China has surpassed the United States for the first time to lead the world in the number of most-cited papers, a key indicator of scientific influence, according to a new report. Between 2018 and 2020, China contributed 27.2 per cent of the world’s most-cited papers – those ranking in the top 1 per cent in terms of citations – while the US accounted for 24.9 per cent, said the “Japanese Science and Technology Indicators” report released on August 9. Some have pointed to the report as evidence of the rapid rise in the quality – in addition to quantity – of Chinese research.

Read the full article [here](#).



## REPORT DETAILS MASSIVE CHINESE IP THEFT

Bill Gertz | *The Washington Times* | May 4, 2022

Cybersecurity sleuths recently uncovered a massive Chinese government-linked hacking operation that is part of the billions of dollars' worth of stolen intellectual property and other data designed to support further cyber espionage taken from U.S. and foreign companies. The cybersecurity firm Cybereason disclosed details of the sophisticated Chinese hacking group it labeled "Winnti" in a report made public Wednesday. "This group has existed since at least 2010 and is believed to be operating on behalf of Chinese state interests and specializes in cyberespionage and intellectual property theft," the report said. The group penetrated corporate computer networks and maintained a clandestine presence inside those networks until it was discovered in 2021. The hackers operated undetected since 2019 and targeted sensitive proprietary information from technology and manufacturing companies in North America, East Asia and Western Europe. Among the stolen information from victim companies — not identified in the report — were sensitive documents, blueprints, diagrams, formulas and manufacturing-related proprietary data. Research and development documents and source code also were taken.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## THIRD FORMER GLAXOSMITHKLINE SCIENTIST PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING COMPANY SECRETS

Kevin Dunleavy | *Fierce Pharma* | January 4, 2022

A third former GlaxoSmithKline scientist has admitted her guilt in a conspiracy to steal secrets from the company to benefit a company in China. In the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Lucy Xi, 44, filed her plea on Monday. She formerly worked on developing antibody drugs at GSK's facility in Upper Merion, Pa. In January 2015, Xi sent a document that included confidential information on GSK research on monoclonal antibodies to her husband Yan Mei, who remains a fugitive in China, the court said. "You need to understand it very well," Xi wrote in the body of an email. "It will help you in your future business." Xi is the fourth person to plead guilty in the scheme, which came to light in 2016 after an FBI probe. In 2018, two other former GSK scientists, Yu Xue and Tao Li, admitted guilt along with Xue's twin sister, Tian Xue of Charlotte, N.C. Yu Xue, said to be the ringleader of the group, had earned her reputation as one of the top chemists at GSK in her 10 years with the company after receiving her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina. Xue set up Renopharma, a company that acted as a repository for the secrets stolen from GSK, according to court documents. The Chinese government funded Renopharma to the tune of \$300,000 and provided free lab space to the company.

Read the full article [here](#).

---

## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

*The Academic Security and Counter Exploitation Program is coordinated by The Texas A&M University System Research Security Office as a service to the academic community.*  
<https://rso.tamug.edu>

