

SPACE CYBERSECURITY WEEKLY WATCH

Week 50

December 10 - 16, 2024

Timeframe: Weekly
of articles identified: 45
Est. time to read: 75 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.

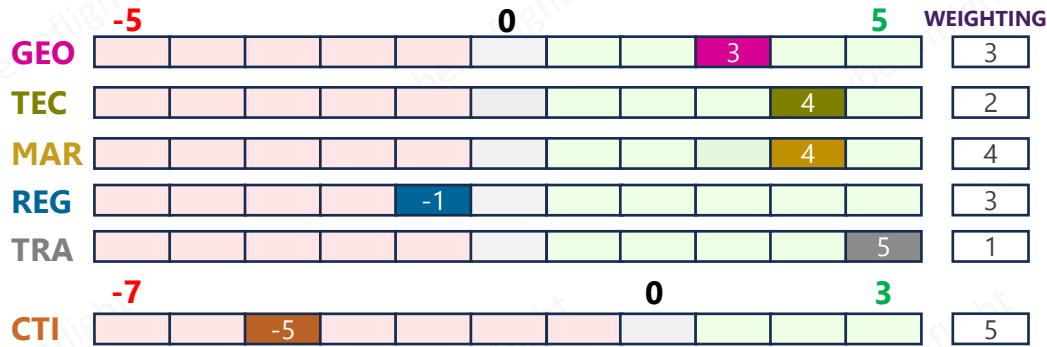
- **GEOPOLITICS**
- **TECHNOLOGY**
- **MARKET INTELLIGENCE**
- **REGULATION**
- **TRAINING & EDUCATION**
- **THREAT INTELLIGENCE**
- ★ **IMPORTANT NEWS**

RISC Score Assessment

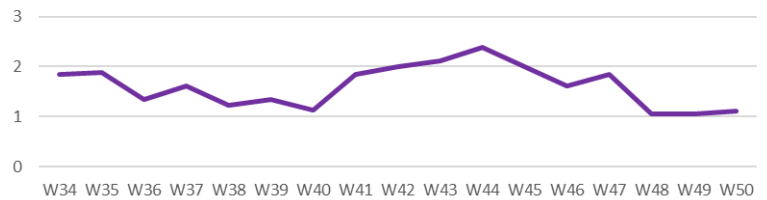


This week's RISC score is 1.12, reflecting a small increase compared to last week. This is especially due to a good technological climate, especially with quantum-related news.

Overview & Resilience Index for Space Cybersecurity (RISC)



RISC Score Evolution



On the geopolitical side, the Malaysian Armed Forces is formulating a long-term plan to strengthen the country's space defence system capabilities. The plan, which will start from 2030 until 2044, includes the launch of National Military Satellites to support the Space Defence System. On the threat intel side, Russian nation-state actor Secret Blizzard used those tools and infrastructure to compromise targets in Ukraine. Another news is about a Chinese citizen living in Los Angeles who allegedly flew a drone and took aerial images of Vandenberg Space Force Base last month, federal prosecutors said Monday. Yinpiao Zhou, 39, was arrested this week at the San Francisco International Airport before boarding a China-bound flight, the Justice Department said. On the market front, Viasat has received a new five-year contract worth up to \$568m from the US General Services Administration (GSA) to support US DoD technology modernization. The award supports tactical networking, ground system, satellite communication, and cybersecurity solutions. On the technological side, India is set to develop quantum satellite capabilities, securing communication networks against hacking and cyberattacks. The satellite will play a key role in the larger quantum communications network under the National Quantum Mission (NQM). On the regulatory side, as the USSF marks its fifth anniversary, Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman in a keynote speech outlined the service's achievements and challenges that lie ahead. Parallely, Qryptonic offers a high-stakes test: Engage them for a quantum-focused penetration test. If they cannot uncover any vulnerabilities, you walk away with \$1m ! Take your shot!

GEOPOLITICS

★ Malaysian national space defence system plan being formulated

The Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) is formulating a long-term plan to strengthen the country's space defence system capabilities, said Deputy Defence Minister Adly Zahari. He said the plan, which will start from 2030 until 2044, includes the launch of National Military Satellites to support the Space Defence System. **#Malaysia #DefencePlan**



Link: <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2024/12/1146817/adly-national-space-defence-system-plan-being-formulated>

Europe and the United States need to reestablish their defence industrial bases - and how they cooperate



Europe and the United States need to reestablish their defence industrial bases and how they cooperate. This is a key challenge for both regions as they face increasing geopolitical tensions and the need for more robust defence capabilities.

Link: [https://www.euractiv.com/en/defence/europe-us-defence-industrial-bases-cooperation](#)

Power play exposed: China's alleged spy bases quietly constructed in Cuba



Recent allegations about the existence of Chinese spy bases in Cuba have sparked heated debates, with Cuban officials denying the reports. The allegations claim that the bases are used for gathering intelligence on global security, particularly in the Caribbean region.

Link: [https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-alleged-spy-bases-cuba-2024-12-10](#)

US Space Force will be Europe's major partner in satellite operations



The US Space Force will be Europe's major partner in satellite operations, according to a report. This partnership is seen as a key element of the transatlantic security architecture, aimed at enhancing the region's resilience against space-based threats.

Link: [https://www.defencejournal.com/news/2024/12/10/us-space-force-europe-satellite-operations](#)

China groups for war tested



China's military groups are being tested for war readiness, according to reports. This testing is part of the country's ongoing military modernization efforts and is seen as a response to the current international security environment.

Link: [https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-military-testing-2024-12-10](#)

THREAT INTELLIGENCE

★ Frequent freeloader part II: Russian actor Secret Blizzard using tools of other groups to attack Ukraine

After co-opting the tools and infrastructure of another nation-state threat actor to facilitate espionage activities, Russian nation-state actor Secret Blizzard used those tools and infrastructure to compromise targets in Ukraine. Microsoft Threat Intelligence has observed that these campaigns consistently led to the download of Secret Blizzard's custom malware, with the Tavdig backdoor creating the foothold to install their KazuarV2 backdoor. **#Russia #SecretBlizzard**



Link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/blog/2024/12/11/frequent-freeloader-part-ii-russian-actor-secret-blizzard-using-tools-of-other-groups-to-attack-ukraine/>

The US cybercommunity officials China attacks on American infrastructure top of the to-do list



The US cybercommunity officials China attacks on American infrastructure top of the to-do list. This focus reflects the growing concern over the security of critical infrastructure and the need for enhanced cyber defenses.

Link: [https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/press-releases/2024/12/10/cisa-issues-advisory-china-cyber-attacks](#)

★ Chinese citizen charged with flying drone over key US military, NASA rocket launch base, taking photos

A Chinese citizen living in Los Angeles allegedly flew a drone and took aerial images of Vandenberg Space Force Base last month, federal prosecutors said Monday. Yinpiao Zhou, 39, was arrested this week at the San Francisco International Airport prior to boarding a China-bound flight, the Justice Department said. He is charged with failure to register an aircraft not providing transportation and violation of national defense airspace. **#USSF #Drone**



Link: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/chinese-citizen-charged-flying-drone-over-us-military-nasa-rocket-launch-base-taking-photos>



THREAT INTELLIGENCE

Many of the year's global IT outages and supply chain attacks

In part of its annual Security Advisory, "State of the Year" 2024, the primary focus will be on the growing threat of supply chain attacks. The report will discuss the impact of these attacks on global IT infrastructure and the need for improved security measures. [Read the full report](#)

[Link: https://www.cisa.gov/secure/state-of-the-year-2024](#)

Space force warns of increasing threats from China for space agencies

The US Space Force has issued a warning that China's growing space capabilities pose a significant challenge to the US and other space agencies. The report highlights the need for improved security measures to protect space assets. [Read the full report](#)



[Link: https://www.spaceforce.mil/Newsroom/News-Details/Space-Force-Warns-of-Increasing-Threats-from-China-for-Space-Agencies](#)

US DHS spending and programing under review

The US Department of Homeland Security has announced that its IT spending and programing will be under review. The report discusses the need for improved security measures to protect critical infrastructure. [Read the full report](#)

[Link: https://www.dhs.gov/press-releases/2024/12/09](#)

TECHNOLOGY

Next-Gen AI: the state of the art in quantum computing

AI is rapidly advancing, and quantum computing is the next frontier. This report explores the latest developments in quantum computing and its potential applications. [Read the full report](#)



[Link: https://www.quantumcomputingtoday.com/next-gen-ai-the-state-of-the-art-in-quantum-computing](#)

Smaller signal and programing should be French satellite systems, military helicopters

The French satellite industry has announced that it will be developing smaller signal and programing for its satellite systems. This report discusses the challenges and opportunities associated with this technology. [Read the full report](#)



[Link: https://www.satelliteindustrytoday.com/smaller-signal-and-programing-should-be-french-satellite-systems-military-helicopters](#)

Trustable wireless alignment with 5G cybersecurity initiatives

Trustable wireless alignment with 5G cybersecurity initiatives is a key focus for the industry. This report discusses the challenges and opportunities associated with this technology. [Read the full report](#)



[Link: https://www.wirelessindustrytoday.com/trustable-wireless-alignment-with-5g-cybersecurity-initiatives](#)

Industry groups with integration of new satellite systems and digital technologies

Industry groups are working on the integration of new satellite systems and digital technologies. This report discusses the challenges and opportunities associated with this technology. [Read the full report](#)

[Link: https://www.satelliteindustrytoday.com/industry-groups-with-integration-of-new-satellite-systems-and-digital-technologies](#)



India to join elite nations with quantum satellite for secure communication

India is set to join an elite group of countries with quantum satellite capabilities, securing communication networks against hacking and cyberattacks. The satellite will play a key role in the larger quantum communications network under the National Quantum Mission (NQM). [#Quantum #India](#)



[Link: https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/india-to-join-elite-nations-with-quantum-satellite-for-secure-communication/](https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/india-to-join-elite-nations-with-quantum-satellite-for-secure-communication/)



TECHNOLOGY

China's long view on quantum tech: the US and EU playing catch up

Quantum computing is seen as a game-changer in cybersecurity, with the potential to break current encryption standards. China is heavily investing in quantum research, and experts believe it will achieve quantum supremacy before the US and EU. While quantum tech is still in the research phase, it is likely that it will be used to break current encryption standards before it is used to create new ones. [SpaceNews Magazine](#)



[https://www.space.com/quantum-computing-us-eu-catch-up](#)

MARKET & COMPETITION



Viasat awarded up to \$568m contract from GSA to support C5ISR capabilities for DoD

Viasat has received a new five-year contract worth up to \$568m from the US General Services Administration (GSA) to support US DoD technology modernization. The award supports tactical networking, ground system, satellite communication, and cybersecurity solutions. The sole-source, Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract is a follow-on from a similar award in 2019. [#Viasat #DoD](#)



Link: <https://www.satellitetoday.com/government-military/2024/12/11/viasat-awarded-up-to-568-million-contract-from-gsa-to-support-c5isr-capabilities-for-dod/>

Capella Space announces Lucida Services as Chief Information Security Officer

Capella Space announced the appointment of the new Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) with a wealth of experience in an industry where it is currently working. The new CISO will be responsible for the overall security posture of the organization. [SpaceNews Magazine](#)



[https://www.space.com/capella-space-lucida-services-ciso](#)

Raytheon receives Space Force 2025-2026 contract extension

The US Space Force Space Systems Command (SSC) has awarded Raytheon a 2025-2026 contract extension for the US Space Force's Space Systems Command (SSC) to provide... [SpaceNews Magazine](#)



[https://www.space.com/raytheon-space-force-2025-2026-contract-extension](#)

2024 Space Trends, obstacles and opportunities in the USMS/MSF industry

In 2024, an advanced emerging trends, challenges and opportunities that significantly impacted the USMS/MSF industry. [SpaceNews Magazine](#)

[https://www.space.com/2024-space-trends-obstacles-opportunities-usms-msf-industry](#)

Winning aerospace 2024/25 contract award with Space on January 14, 2025

Winning aerospace 2024/25 contract award with Space on January 14, 2025. The award is a significant milestone for the company. [SpaceNews Magazine](#)



[https://www.space.com/aerospace-2024-25-contract-award-space-january-14-2025](#)

ESA/ESA2 of Engineering and 2025 Navigation Group (ESA) receive 2025 flight with radio positioning alternatives to GPS

ESA/ESA2 of Engineering and 2025 Navigation Group (ESA) receive 2025 flight with radio positioning alternatives to GPS. [SpaceNews Magazine](#)



[https://www.space.com/esa-esa2-engineering-2025-navigation-group-2025-flight-radio-positioning-alternatives-gps](#)

South Africa to host Space 2025 global hub

South Africa to host Space 2025 global hub. The event will bring together members of the national space sector to discuss the national cooperation, innovation and space policy. [SpaceNews Magazine](#)



[https://www.space.com/south-africa-host-space-2025-global-hub](#)

TRAINING & EDUCATION

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

The United States Air Force is supporting cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges. The Air Force is supporting cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges.



USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges



USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges



At five years, Space Force reflects on growth, challenges and the road ahead

As the US Space Force marks its fifth anniversary, senior leaders and rank-and-file members, known as guardians, gathered at the second annual Spacepower Conference in Orlando this week. Against the backdrop of an increasingly contested space domain, Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman in a keynote speech Dec. 10 outlined the service's achievements and challenges that lie ahead. **#USSF #Throwback**



Link: <https://spacenews.com/at-five-years-space-force-reflects-on-growth-challenges-and-the-road-ahead/>



Qryptonic launches \$1m quantum penetration challenge to test cybersecurity resilience against future quantum computing threats

Quantum computing will soon challenge today's encryption, bringing us closer to "Q-Day" when traditional security measures may no longer hold. Qryptonic is offering a high-stakes test: Engage us for a quantum-focused penetration test. If we cannot uncover any vulnerabilities, you walk away with \$1m! If we do find weaknesses, you gain valuable insights to strengthen your defenses before quantum attackers emerge. **#Quantum #Challenge**



Link: <https://www.qryptonic.com/quantum-challenge>

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges



USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges



USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges

USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges



USAF supports cross-institution and agency in air and space power to address modern warfare challenges



TRAINING & EDUCATION

Space Force highlights industry's role in space development
The focus of the address was on the importance of industry in space development, particularly in the area of space infrastructure. The speaker emphasized the need for a robust and resilient space infrastructure to support the nation's space activities and the role of industry in building this infrastructure.



[https://www.spaceforce.mil/News-Events/2024/12/09/space-force-highlights-industrys-role-in-space-development](#)

US Cyber Force to expand cyberdevelopment operations, do so from new locations
The US Cyber Force is expanding its operations to new locations, including the new US Cyber Force Center in the United Kingdom. This expansion is part of the US Cyber Force's strategy to enhance its global reach and capabilities in cyberspace operations.



[https://www.cyber.mil/News-Events/2024/12/09/us-cyber-force-to-expand-cyberdevelopment-operations-do-so-from-new-locations](#)

Recognizing the final frontier: space law, cybersecurity, and innovation in the New Space age
The final frontier is space, and it is a place of opportunity and challenge. As we explore the final frontier, we must ensure that we have the legal, technical, and operational capabilities to support our activities in space.



[https://www.spaceforce.mil/News-Events/2024/12/09/recognizing-the-final-frontier-space-law-cybersecurity-and-innovation-in-the-new-space-age](#)

Space and cyber security
The space and cyber security community is growing, and it is a place of opportunity and challenge. As we explore the final frontier, we must ensure that we have the legal, technical, and operational capabilities to support our activities in space.



[https://www.spaceforce.mil/News-Events/2024/12/09/space-and-cyber-security](#)

The US military is now talking about going on the attack in space
The US military is now talking about going on the attack in space. This is a significant shift in the US military's strategy in space, and it is a place of opportunity and challenge. As we explore the final frontier, we must ensure that we have the legal, technical, and operational capabilities to support our activities in space.



[https://www.spaceforce.mil/News-Events/2024/12/09/the-us-military-is-now-talking-about-going-on-the-attack-in-space](#)

Overview of the development of space navigation market intelligence monitoring
The development of space navigation market intelligence monitoring is a key area of focus for the US military. This is a place of opportunity and challenge. As we explore the final frontier, we must ensure that we have the legal, technical, and operational capabilities to support our activities in space.



[https://www.spaceforce.mil/News-Events/2024/12/09/overview-of-the-development-of-space-navigation-market-intelligence-monitoring](#)

Leading Space is leading for its next security interest
The US military is leading for its next security interest in space. This is a place of opportunity and challenge. As we explore the final frontier, we must ensure that we have the legal, technical, and operational capabilities to support our activities in space.



[https://www.spaceforce.mil/News-Events/2024/12/09/leading-space-is-leading-for-its-next-security-interest](#)

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

