

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

To: New York Community Banks

This morning's update also includes important information we wanted to share with you regarding the cyber-attack on SolarWinds Orion Platform -- and about a call coordinated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and a request from the Treasury Department for feedback from financial institutions.

-- John

FROM ICBA

Calls this week on SolarWinds breaches

The Department of Homeland Security and FS-ISAC are holding calls this week on the supply chain attack on the SolarWinds Orion Platform. The [DHS call](#) is scheduled for noon (Eastern time) tomorrow, Dec. 17, followed by the [FS-ISAC call](#) at 3 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Treasury Department is seeking feedback from financial institutions that have ever run the SolarWinds Orion versions compromised in the attack. Respondents can contact Treasury's Office of Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection at OCCIP-Coord@treasury.gov or anonymously through FS-ISAC at sharingops@fsisac.com.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency this week [issued an alert](#) with information on the attack and an [emergency directive](#) on mitigating the compromise. CISA is encouraging affected organizations to read advisories with more information and detection countermeasures.

The massive SolarWinds attack has pushed malicious code to an estimated 18,000 customers, including federal agencies and many private companies. The attack took place between March and June and is the source of the breach disclosed last week at U.S. cybersecurity company FireEye.

SolarWinds said it suspects an outside nation-state conducted the attack, with media reports pointing to Russian hackers. The [Krebs on Security](#) blog reported that Microsoft took possession of a key domain name used by the attackers, which is expected to give it more information on who was directly affected.

Stimulus push urgent during Capitol crunch time

As congressional stimulus negotiations become increasingly urgent, ICBA is calling on community bankers to make a final push for an economic relief package with key stimulus priorities.

ICBA is urging community bankers to:

- [Tell Congress](#) to pass top stimulus priorities, including PPP reforms.
- [Urge lawmakers](#) to address the EIDL advance debt trap.
- Immediately enlist affected small-business customers to [push for an EIDL fix](#).

Community bankers can enlist small-business customers on the EIDL push by passing along [this link](#) and letting them know the time to act is now.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- Congressional leaders are reportedly nearing a deal on a \$900 billion coronavirus relief package that would include direct payments to Americans and bypass contentious issues such as state and local assistance and a liability shield for businesses. The development comes after leaders cited progress in yesterday's talks for additional coronavirus aid, which would likely be attached to a \$1.4 trillion omnibus spending measure to fund government agencies through Sept. 30. ([Politico](#)). House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader McCarthy met yesterday and sounded optimistic about a deal.

- With a Friday deadline looming to avoid a government shutdown and increased urgency over striking a deal on a new COVID-19 aid package, the House is scheduled to meet today and committee staff members were reportedly told to prepare to review legislative text. ([The Washington Post](#)). . . **All the latest on the talks:** <http://politi.co/2Wjlxrd>.
- The U.S. poverty rate has surged over the past five months as 7.8 million Americans falling into poverty, the latest indication of how deeply many are struggling after government aid dwindled. The poverty rate jumped to 11.7% in November, up 2.4 percentage points since June, according to new data released today by researchers at the University of Chicago and the University of Notre Dame. https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/12/16/poverty-rising/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTW1JMU9XVmxPR0pqTmpGaSIInQoiOiIxZW5c0p0XC9uY21nXC80M2NWSXRyVzBYbmx1XC9ET3Z3RDVUV2FqV0xYRmljZWhhUjZ5bGM4ZFBLelJqQ0RqUktxOGVidHRobXJobVhmQjhVTW9VTENPbU93U016YXRzSEE2M2V6c25lcVR1WmxGbDZuVTdKa00wdEEzeko3QWttTSJ9
- The Fed's last policy meeting of 2020 will today offer a first look at how a coronavirus vaccine has changed the U.S. economic outlook, and whether businesses, workers and families need more help from the central bank until inoculations and immunity are widespread. https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-fed/fed-faces-tricky-act-balancing-impact-of-vaccines-against-economic-pain-idUSKBN28Q0M5?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTW1JMU9XVmxPR0pqTmpGaSIInQoiOiIxZW5c0p0XC9uY21nXC80M2NWSXRyVzBYbmx1XC9ET3Z3RDVUV2FqV0xYRmljZWhhUjZ5bGM4ZFBLelJqQ0RqUktxOGVidHRobXJobVhmQjhVTW9VTENPbU93U016YXRzSEE2M2V6c25lcVR1WmxGbDZuVTdKa00wdEEzeko3QWttTSJ9
- U.S. consumers have pulled back on purchases and limited holiday shopping in recent weeks as the coronavirus pandemic triggered new business restrictions, potentially snapping a six-month stretch of retail sales growth. https://www.wsj.com/articles/us-economy-november-retail-sales-coronavirus-recovery-11608059514?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTW1JMU9XVmxPR0pqTmpGaSIInQoiOiIxZW5c0p0XC9uY21nXC80M2NWSXRyVzBYbmx1XC9ET3Z3RDVUV2FqV0xYRmljZWhhUjZ5bGM4ZFBLelJqQ0RqUktxOGVidHRobXJobVhmQjhVTW9VTENPbU93U016YXRzSEE2M2V6c25lcVR1WmxGbDZuVTdKa00wdEEzeko3QWttTSJ9
- The Trump administration is reportedly negotiating to free up supplies of raw materials to help Pfizer produce tens of millions of additional doses of its Covid-19 vaccine for Americans in the first half of 2021. Such an agreement could at least partially remedy a looming shortage. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/15/us/politics/us-pfizer-vaccine-more-doses.html?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTVRReU9UVTNaV001WkdSbSIsInQoiOiJVazgzdnNrZjgyNzI1b1RWeU04VFE3QnlKdFdLNnZDUWRHSzg2MwC1WjIzdk9zSzN1TXVlVlF6cFRiWU5SWGdtK1NBZWVyd0pYZnNLa2NrZFdiSERrWWdOOGM2OGJcL1JFuk95cWxxXC8reDdmOHBBoeU1xQjZiaWhadWlhcENKQzFtIn0%3D
- The CEO of Goldman Sachs said that small businesses it surveyed are in dire need of another round of emergency Paycheck Protection Program funding, telling an interviewer: "They really have needs; 90% of them have exhausted their PPP funding at this point." https://www.cnbc.com/2020/12/15/goldman-sachs-ceo-david-solomon-said-that-90percent-of-small-businesses-have-exhausted-ppp-funds.html?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTW1JMU9XVmxPR0pqTmpGaSIInQoiOiIxZW5c0p0XC9uY21nXC80M2NWSXRyVzBYbmx1XC9ET3Z3RDVUV2FqV0xYRmljZWhhUjZ5bGM4ZFBLelJqQ0RqUktxOGVidHRobXJobVhmQjhVTW9VTENPbU93U016YXRzSEE2M2V6c25lcVR1WmxGbDZuVTdKa00wdEEzeko3QWttTSJ9

FROM NEW YORK

- Governor estimated that at the current rate, New York next month [could have more than double the amount of people in hospitals](#) and another 3,500 people dead. New York still leads the nation with about 35,000 confirmed and suspected COVID deaths after being first hit in the U.S. by the virus in early 2020.

- The New York State Legislature has not yet reached agreement on potentially returning for a year-end special "lame duck" session because the State Senate and Assembly have yet to reach an agreement on the specifics of increasing taxes on the very richest New Yorkers and providing protections for renters and undocumented immigrants. Details remain under negotiation. [More here](#). Among others, ten major labor unions in New York, including the state AFL-CIO, are pushing for a tax increase on the highest earners in New York as the state faces a multi-billion-dollar budget shortfall. [Read More](#)
- The State legislature is divided over extending protections against eviction. The State Senate [is pushing a blanket moratorium on all residential evictions](#) for an indefinite period, but the Assembly opposes the measure. The move to block all residential evictions would be a departure from the Legislature's approach in recent months. Legislators have ceded control to Governor Cuomo, who has preferred to extend existing legislation.
- [For the seventh day](#) in a row, Albany County has reported COVID-19-related deaths, and a record number of people are now under mandatory quarantine.
- NYC Mayor de Blasio said a [full shutdown of non-essential city businesses](#) is needed to dull the impact of a second coronavirus wave, but he'd prefer to see it begin after Christmas. The decision to shut down is ultimately up to Gov. Cuomo. The Mayor emphasized the need to institute one because of stubbornly high COVID transmission rates that could threaten to spread hospitals too thin: The number of new cases over a seven-day average stood at 2,813, five times the city's acceptability threshold of 550, and the positivity rate also remained high at 5.51%, above the city's 5% threshold.

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IBANYS will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. Thank you all for your continued participation and support.

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