



**Statement of Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX)
Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee
House Homeland Security Committee**

*Emerging Cyber Threats to the United States
February 25, 2016*

Remarks as Prepared

Our country is under constant attack from adversaries seeking access to our critical infrastructure and personal data. They are using our own information systems against us. The reality is this: the web has become a weapon, and nation states, criminal enterprises, and terrorist organizations are acting with increasing sophistication on the online battlefield. We must understand these cyber threats in order to protect our homeland against them.

Today, we expect to hear about the threats we face in today's cyber landscape. But I hope our witnesses will also discuss how America should confront them. We cannot stand on the sidelines while faceless enemies penetrate our networks. Nor can we afford to fail out of negligence or apathy. Our message to cyber assailants should be clear—America will not retreat; we will defend ourselves.

I applaud the President's recent Cybersecurity National Action Plan for proposing increased attention and resources to combat these threats. However, I still have questions about the overall strategy guiding these efforts. The Administration must release the National Cybersecurity Incident Response plan, which is required by law in the National Cybersecurity Protection Act of 2014, which I sponsored. The Administration says the plan will be out this spring, and I urge them to get it done.

The President's recent cyber proposal is an approach I have been pushing for us to adopt for more than a decade as a member of the Cybersecurity Caucus. I am disappointed, though, that it took until his last year in office for the President to release it. In cyberspace, we know all-too-well that delay can be disastrous. We saw this with the OPM breach and the Sony Hack, and I fear that leadership lapses on the cyber front will have consequences for years to come.

I want to thank the witnesses for joining us today. It is disconcerting—but important—for us to hear the truth about the severity of the cyber challenges we face. We have not kept pace with our adversaries. And if we want to disrupt their attacks, we must be vigilant and keep an eye toward the future. Above all else, our task must be to keep the American people safe.

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