



Ransomware attacks against schools are surging, researchers find

The latest victims join an increasing number of schools targeted by ransomware attacks in 2019, including a community college that was hit with a \$1.6 million demand from hackers that had been lurking on its network for months before going active.

FCC Invests \$950 Million to Improve Broadband in Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands

The Federal Communications Commission approved \$950 million in funding to improve, expand, and harden communications networks in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Two years ago, communications infrastructure on the islands was devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. To date, the FCC has provided about \$130 million in additional, one-time Universal Service Fund support to assist with network restoration.

Critical Update: The Hidden Threats of 5G

Fifth generation wireless technology, or 5G, is anticipated to usher in an entirely new age of wireless connectivity. Billions of devices—self-driving cars, service robots, smart devices inside homes, wearable technology and sensors on streets—will communicate and create massive troves of sensitive data.

Hackers Are Hitting Government More, but That's Nothing New

Data from cybersecurity researchers shows that ransomware attacks against government are spiking right now. But that's part of a larger trend — for years now, government has faced more and more hacking attempts.

Ohio offering grant money for 911 upgrades

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced \$4.3 million in grant funding is available to counties seeking to upgrade their 911 systems.

It's Time To Solve K-12's Cybersecurity Crisis

A new research report, *Cybersecurity and Education: The State of the Digital District in 2020?*, focused on the state of security, staff and student safety, and endpoint device health in K-12 organizations. The study's findings reflect the crisis the education sector is facing as they grapple

with high levels of risk exposure that have made them a prime target for cybercriminals and ransomware attackers.

Only four presidential candidates have a plan for the digital divide

Despite the Federal Communications Commission's estimation that more than 20 million Americans lack access to high-speed internet, just four candidates in the 2020 presidential race have released substantial broadband expansion proposals, according to a new report from BroadbandNow.com.

5G Will Mean Better Speeds and Telehealth, FCC Chair Says

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai visited Abilene Memorial Hospital in Kansas last week to observe how broadband connects the local emergency department with specialists in South Dakota.

Lack of internet access holds rural communities, students back

Across Montana, thousands of students are headed back to school to begin a new year of learning and growth. Unfortunately, many students in rural Montana remain at risk of falling behind due to the lack of broadband access in their communities.

The 1Million Project Foundation Partners with Teach For America on National Homework Gap Initiative

As schools across the nation kick off a new school year, the 1Million Project Foundation is collaborating with Teach For America to help reach more high school students who need access to reliable internet at home.

University of Michigan, Apple to Research Hearing Health

The new Apple Hearing Study will be available soon for users to participate in through a forthcoming Apple app, called the research app, which will be available for download by the end of 2019.

How Louisiana Responded to Its Recent Ransomware Attacks

Through quick response and an existing cyberthreat response system, the state managed to stave off what could have been a much more disastrous attack that would have affected twice as many communities.

Researcher at UConn Investigates New Voting Technology

A group of researchers at the University of Connecticut Center for Voting Technology Research (VoTeR Center) are investigating technology that will enable poll workers to check-in voters electronically.

A parched country: study shows digital deserts exist

According to the study's authors, "often overlooked or even unknown until now is that of the 21.3 million people without access to 25/3 [high-speed internet] as reported by the FCC in their latest broadband progress report, almost five million people and/or 2.2 million housing units had access to no provider.

For state governments, cybersecurity is getting more complex

State and big-city governments have stepped up their cybersecurity policies considerably over the past few years, officials said this week at a Department of Homeland Security conference outside Washington.



BROADBAND STRONG: Delivering **FLEXIBLE** broadband and **FAST** experiences to meet the growing broadband needs of education, government, public safety, and healthcare in Iowa.

Connect with Broadband Matters at: broadbandmatters.com