



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Indian Govt, RBI in talks to allow use of QR code-based offline Aadhaar

How Amazon's Cloud arm AWS is democratizing Machine Learning for all

TRAI's DND app is now available on Apple's App Store

A blockchain-based search engine to power your business

## Today's View

### Healthcare Under Attack

Hospitals are becoming perfect targets for cyber-attacks because they provide critical care and rely on up-to-date information from patient records. Without quick access to drug histories, surgery directives and other information, patient care can get delayed or halted, which makes hospitals more likely to pay a ransom rather than risk delays that could result in deaths and lawsuits.

Unlike the illegal appropriation of personal electronic financial information such as credit cards and bank account numbers, personal health information can't be cancelled or changed easily. The persistence of this data is what cybercriminals are after. Often, the attack is carried out by gaining access to health organization's computer networks to steal intellectual property, learn about workflow and capabilities of the organization's EHR (electronic health record) system and identity theft.

On an average, healthcare organizations are sustaining one cyber-attack per month and nearly half of them lost or exposed patient health information over the last 12 months, as per cybersecurity firm **ESET** North America.

The most notorious ransomware attack on a healthcare organization in recent times occurred at **Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center** in Los Angeles. The assault forced the 434-bed acute care hospital, which serves an affluent, celebrity-studded population, to turn to paper records or lose patients to

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**Singapore firm may grab \$100-million ride to Oyo**

Singapore ride-hailing company Grab is in advanced discussions to invest \$100 million in Oyo Hotels & Homes as part of the Indian hospitality chain's ongoing \$1-billion funding round. Grab, which acquired rival Uber's south-east Asian business in March, is expected to close the deal over the next few days, according to two people briefed on the matter.

#### Checking in

The investment in Oyo will be its first in India. It had signed up for an additional stake alongside Oyo and Lyft in 2016.

Grab acquired



Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 03<sup>rd</sup> Dec 18

other hospitals for two or three days after its computers were compromised. The hospital had to pay \$17,000 in bitcoins to the cybercriminals to unlock its network.

Similarly, phishing attacks resulted in data breaches in multiple other healthcare organizations as well. One such breach happened at US-based hospital network **UnityPoint Health** with 1.4 million patient records. While another phishing attack on staff email accounts at **Madison campus** breached the data of 16,000 patients. Law enforcement and forensic investigators believe the attack was financially motivated. The investigation found the hackers tried to use the email system to divert vendor or payroll payments.

Similarly, **Augusta University Health** was hit by two cyber-attacks which resulted in breaching of 417,000 patient records. In response to the attack, officials hired new leadership to fill roles in a number of critical departments. It also implemented multifactor authentication for off-campus email while reviewing tools to limit email retention.

Healthcare providers, payers and other organizations that handle healthcare data have started to spend more on cybersecurity and deploy increasingly sophisticated technologies to mitigate such data breaches. More on this in our next article!

## Today's News

### Indian govt, RBI in talks to allow use of QR code-based offline Aadhaar

In the wake of the Supreme Court order on Aadhaar, the government and the RBI are in talks to allow use of 'offline Aadhaar' that relies on QR codes, instead of the biometric e-KYC, for opening bank accounts, operating payment wallets and purchasing insurance covers. The move is significant as it will also benefit financial technology companies that have been prodding the government to amend the law to make Aadhaar mandatory, an option that the Centre has virtually ruled out for the moment. The SC has ruled that Aadhaar-based verification could not be done by private firms.

Source – The Economic Times

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### How Amazon's Cloud arm AWS is democratizing Machine Learning for all

While tech giants are busy developing Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) models to deliver enhanced customer experiences, retail giant Amazon's Cloud arm Amazon Web Services (AWS) is busy dealing with a humongous task -- democratising ML for all and protecting it from "bad actors". Some industry watchers say AWS CEO Andy Jassy is overspending on building ML models and services, but for him giving the technology so much time, energy and money is meant to open the doors of companies and developers to the gigantic possibilities ahead once they figure out what exactly is to be done with ML.

Source – The Economic Times

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Manish Kulkarni



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### EaseMyTrip eyes sales worth Rs 7,800 crore in FY20

Online travel firm EaseMyTrip is looking to more than double the sales on its platform to up to Rs 7,800 crore in the next fiscal year on the back of addition in itineraries and entry into new markets such as the US, the UK and Australia, a top company official said. The company, which competes with the likes of MakeMyTrip and Yatra, is expected to clock sales of around Rs 3,500 crore in the current fiscal year.

Source – The Economic Times

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### PhonePe users can now directly book IRCTC train tickets on the app

Flipkart-owned digital payments platform PhonePe has partnered Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to launch a micro-app on its platform. This comes nearly three months after PhonePe struck a partnership with IRCTC to facilitate digital payments on the IRCTC Rail connect Android app.

Source – The Economic Times

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### Paytm pulls out in-app chat due to costs of scaling

Softbank and Berkshire Hathaway backed Paytm has taken off the in-app chat feature, with founder Vijay Shekhar Shatma citing high costs for scaling. Sharma said the Inbox feature will now focus mainly on content, through games, news and videos. This comes as Paytm is competing with WhatsApp which entered payments this year.

Source – The Economic Times

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## A blockchain-based search engine to power your business

Will a blockchain-based search engine for enterprises make sense? US-based Vinod Sujan, the founder and CEO of Aarzoo Search, thinks so, and is all set to launch a search engine in the B2B space based on blockchain technology. "We aim at delivering search results that are faithful to the query and completely unfazed and incorruptible by promoted or sponsored data," he says. "With Aarzoo, the search happens in real time and as the information is not filtered, the user will get unfiltered results without any bias."

Source – Mint

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## WhatsApp seeks RBI nod to offer payment services to all 200 million Indian users

WhatsApp chief has written to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), seeking a formal nod to expand payments services to all its 200 million users in India. The messaging app, which has drawn fire from the government over spread of fake messages on its platform, continues to wait for a regulatory clearance to launch full-fledged payments operations in India - months after its 'testing' amassed nearly one million users, and almost two years since it first began discussions with the government on its payments services plans. The development comes at a time when competitors such as Google have forged ahead with their payments offerings.

Source – Business Standard

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## Indonesia's Go-Jek in talks to invest \$30M in e-sports startup Mobile Premier League

Go-Ventures, the investment arm of Go-Jek, one of Indonesia's most valuable tech startups, is finalising a \$30 million financing round in domestic mobile gaming company, Mobile Premier League (MPL), two people aware of the deal said. For MPL, this will be its second fundraise in a gap of a few months and is likely to see its valuation increase ten times from the previous round, sources privy to the transaction said. If the deal goes through it will be Go-Jek's maiden financial investment in India after having acquired three local companies to boost its technology and engineering talent.

Source – The Economic Times

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## TRAI's DND app is now available on Apple's App Store

Months after arriving at a middle ground, the 'do not disturb' app of India's telecom regulator went live on Apple's App Store for its device owners to use the app to flag unwanted calls and messages in the country. It also comes ahead of the January 2019 deadline that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had set to derecognise devices that bar installation of the DND app. India's telecom watchdog and the US phone maker have been at loggerheads for nearly two years over the so-called privacy details sought by the country's regulator while flagging spam calls.

Source – The Economic Times

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## Set to cross 25 m users by March 2019: Truecaller Pay

Truecaller Pay, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based payment platform by Truecaller, said that the app would organically bring on board 25 million users by March 2019. According to the company, the platform is currently witnessing up to 100,000 users linking their bank accounts on a daily basis, of which as much as 50 per cent of the new users are experiencing UPI for the first time.

Source – The Economic Times

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## Instagram's new feature allows users to share Stories with a select group

Instagram is introducing the ability for users to share their Stories with a select group of friends. Users can create a list of their close friends and share more personal moments with them. This feature will be available on Instagram's iOS and Android apps.

Source – The Economic Times

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## IMPS platform major Sarvatra Tech eyes \$20 million PE fund

Sarvatra Technologies, which provides technology solutions for small cooperative banks and handling 30% of the overall IMPS transactions, is aiming to raise USD 20 million from a private equity investor in what would be its maiden fund raising from a financial investor. The company, backed by veteran i-banker Vallabh Bhansali of the Enam Securities fame and ICICI Bank, aims to deploy the funds for expansion, a top official has said.

Source – The Economic Times

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