

## Technology To Be Thankful For

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Thanksgiving is a day when we openly appreciate all that we have and that sentiment applies to more than just our family and friends. It's about everything that helps us become comfortable, productive and balanced. Because technology can often improve the quality of life, it's worthwhile to give thanks to the technologies we may take advantage of everyday.

**Cell Phones** - With so very many apps available, cell phones are a way to stay connected to the people and places around you. They help you order food, do online banking, call for an Uber, stream music and shows, online shopping, and so much more! And with virtual assistants like Siri to set a timer or set a calendar reminder, cell phones are integral to our everyday lives.

**GPS** - Before GPS came standard on every cell phone and in many vehicles, we relied on paper maps and travel guides to get us where we were going. Of course they were impossible to use while actually driving unless you had a passenger to navigate for you. Now, we simply tell the GPS where we want to go and it can even reroute us when we want to avoid construction! Thank goodness!

**WiFi** - Thanks to the everywhere-ness of WiFi, we are always connected. Whether it's traveling for work, waiting at the doctor or dentist, or enjoying a coffee at a cafe while listening to your favorite podcast, WiFi is there for you. Who isn't thankful for a strong WiFi signal?

**Smart Appliances** - As you enjoy your Thanksgiving meal this year, one or more dishes were probably prepared in a smart appliance like an Instant Pot or a smart oven, saving time and preventing the turkey from burning. Smart microwaves with built-in Amazon Alexa recognize over 70 different voice commands giving you hands-free control!

**A Sense of Security** - The Internet of Things has made it easier than ever to secure your home and office. You can remotely control your door locks, lights, thermostats, vacuums, and even pet feeders! With products like Ring, indoor and outdoor cameras, video doorbells and motion sensors give you peace of mind while you're away. It's simple and relatively affordable to monitor your home or office from anywhere.

## Pegasus Spyware Group Blacklisted By The US Government



The US Department of Commerce has ordered American companies to not sell their tech to NSO, citing reports that the group's Pegasus spyware is used against journalists, government officials, activists, and more. In its press release, the regulator says that the company is being added to the Entity List because its tool threatens "the rules-based international order" when its sold to repressive foreign governments.

Pegasus is a program designed to infect targets without notice, allowing police and intelligence agencies to get access to a phone's text messages, photos, and passwords, all without leaving a trace. The Washington Post reported in July that the spyware could infect someone's phone with a single, invisible text message: a target wouldn't have to click on a link or take any action for their fully updated phone to be infected.

NSO's Pegasus spyware was recently in the spotlight because of The Pegasus Project, a collection of journalists who revealed a list of names seemingly connected to the spyware. That list included journalists, activists, heads of state, and others from across the globe, people that NSO says its software shouldn't be used to target. The Pegasus Project also analyzed a handful of journalists' phones and found evidence that the spyware had been installed on them — almost certainly by a government agency, as NSO says those are the only clients it'll sell its software and services to.

Pegasus had made headlines before this year, too. Journalists in Mexico were reportedly targeted with the tool, WhatsApp sued NSO for using an exploit in the messaging app to hack people's phones, and the FBI is said to have at least looked into the company in relation to Jeff Bezos' phone being hacked.

The Department of Commerce says that NSO being added to the entity list, which restricts US companies from exporting products to it because the company "poses a significant risk of being or becoming involved in activities that are contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States."

This likely relates to US affairs outside its actual borders — NSO has said that its tool can't be used to target American phone numbers, and the Department of Commerce and Pegasus Project haven't contested that fact.

NSO isn't the only company being added to the entity list on Thursday. Candiru, another Israeli IT firm that sells spyware (that's reportedly used for similar purposes), is also being blacklisted. The Department of Commerce cited two more companies — one from Russia and one from Singapore — that it says are involved in selling hacking tools.

# Our CEO Is A Published Author

3

November 2021



Stay one step ahead of cyber criminals to protect your business, your customers, and your money!

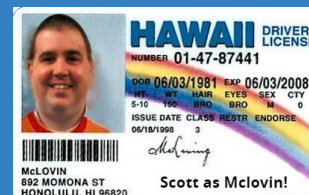
In Jason's first published book, he talks about why cybercrime today cannot be ignored and why your network and data are cyber criminals' #1 target!

Learn all the ways to protect yourself and your data. Contact us today for your copy of *Inside The Hacker Mind*.

## Annual Halloween Costume Contest



Preferred IT Group held our annual Halloween costume contest again last month! There were some great costumes this year! The winner this year is our dispatcher Monique as Rosie the Riveter!





November 2021

## Socktober Success!

*Our Socktober had a wonderful turn out this year!*

*We were able to collect 1,133 pairs of socks, 42 hats, 51 pairs of gloves, 24 neck warmers and 2 pair of newborn mitts! All of our donations will go to the Fort Wayne Community Schools clothing bank.*

*Thank you so much to all of our clients who participated this year! We really appreciate you helping us to do our part for the community! You ROCK!*



### FUN FACT!

Adding "/4"  
to the end of  
Facebook.com  
takes you to  
Mark  
Zuckerberg's  
page!

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group IT

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group IT

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