WHITE HOUSE CANDIDATES' VIEWS ON CYBERSECURITY

The Christian Science Monitor's Passcode blog cross-referenced public statements and actions of the top presidential candidates to a list of privacy and security issues. IDT911 distilled the reference material and graded the candidates.

JUAN CAMILO BERNAL / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

HOW THE NEXT U.S. PRESIDENT WILL DEAL WITH PRIVACY AND SECURITY	HILLARY CLINTON Democrat	BERNIE SANDERS Democrat	MARCO RUBIO Republican	DONALD TRUMP Republican	TED CRUZ Republican	JOHN KASICH Republican
Published cybersecurity plan on website	Partial. Will seek to strengthen alliances; leverage work of public, private sectors.	Partial. Believes in balancing cybersecurity with protecting citizens' rights and data.	Yes. Wants to keep Internet free. Focuses more on taxes and costs than security.	Partial. Calls for zero tolerance of Chinese stealing U.S. intellectual property.	No plan posted.	Partial. Wants to defend government and businesses with a coordinated response.
Backs Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act	Unclear. Wants to overcome mistrust that impedes public-private sector cooperation.	No. Aligns with privacy groups that say loss of privacy and civil liberties is too high a cost.	Did not vote. Supports public-private intel sharing and privacy protections.	Unclear.	Did not vote. Video shows him acknowledging he did not read bill.	Unclear.
Advocates retaliation against nation-state hackers	No statement. Has said stalled legislation doesn't go far enough to stop China, Iran, Russia and North Korea.	No statement. Calls for defending U.S. while protecting privacy and civil liberties of citizenry.	Yes. Says U.S. power should be used harshly to respond to cyber attacks.	Yes. Declares other nations won't get away with stealing data on his watch.	Yes. Says passive politics have enabled Chinese and Russian hackers.	Yes. Attacks should show we can defend and retaliate.
Blamed China for OPM hack	Yes. Accuses China of hacking "everything that doesn't move."	No statement.	Yes. Slams China for digital theft of U.S. corporate secrets.	Yes. Says Chinese hacks border on being acts of war.	Yes. Says it appears China is behind massive cyber warfare attacks.	No statement.
Advocates social media screening for extremist content	No, but calls for disruption of ISIS.	No statement.	Yes. Co-sponsored bill requiring companies to report terrorist online content.	No statement.	Yes. Contends San Bernardino, Calif., terrorists could've been tracked and stopped.	No statement.
Advocates government access to encryption key	No. Calls for the government and tech firms to be partners, not adversaries.	No. Outspoken opponent of any NSA surveillance of ordinary citizens.	Unclear.	Unclear.	Unclear.	Yes. Says laws enforcement needs ability to listen to disrupt terrorist attacks.
Supported NSA metadata program renewal	No. Calls for Congress to act now to end bulk collection of phone records.	No. Government and corporations should not know everything about ordinary citizens.	Yes. Says providing authorities with every tool they need is essential.	Yes. Points to mad men; says security has to preside and be pre-eminent.	No. Surveillance troubles him; co-sponsored bill to end bulk collection of phone records.	No. Federal government should not have carte blanche; rules of restraint are needed.
Supported USA Freedom Act	Yes. Says ending bulk collection of phone records helps protect security and civil liberties.	No. Says while the Freedom Act was a step forward, it doesn't go far enough to protect citizens.	No. Says failure of the Freedom Act to renew key parts of the Patriot Act weakens intelligence systems.	No. Says we should be willing to sacrifice certain things for security.	Yes. Co-sponsor of the Freedom Act. Says it actually expands intel-gathering and law enforcement tools.	Unclear.
Believes Snowden leaks ultimately benefited public	Mostly no. Says the way he did it damaged national security and may have helped terrorist groups.	Yes. Says Snowden educated Americans about the undermining of their constitutional rights and civil liberties.	No. Says Snowden seriously damaged national security.	No. Calls Snowden a traitor.	Yes. Says Snowden may have done a public service by showing lax security of sensitive records.	No direct statement. But calls Snowden a traitor for releasing wiretapping records.
FCC Net Neutrality	For	For	Against	Against	Against	Unclear

IDT911 GRADES THE CANDIDATES' PRIVACY AND SECURITY APTITUDE

ITD911 Chief Privacy Officer Eduard Goodman and Chief Information Security Officer Brian Huntley evaluated the candidates' stances and assigned them the following grades.	HILLARY CLINTON Democrat	BERNIE SANDERS Democrat	MARCO RUBIO Republican	DONALD TRUMP Republican	TED CRUZ Republican	JOHN KASICH Republican
Eduard Goodman IDT911 CPO	**C** She has a nuanced grasp of the wide swath of nation-state threats and is hawkish from a security standpoint. But commingling personal and official business communications showed poor judgment. For that alone, she should get a failing grade. Given her other, more pro-security stances she ekes out a C.	**C+** The Bern has not yet expressed any clear cybersecurity plan. He does have good, clearly expressed opinions around privacy and civil liberties, with little on security. Though he lacks a bit when it comes to his cyber chops, Sanders' privacy-centric approach helps pull him up to a C+.	**D+** His views on data security and privacy are vapid. He has no clear plans around strategy to protect the Internet, just lots of talk about undoing President Obama's approach to Net Neutrality and reducing Internet taxes. Big talk about the Internet being free and innovative, but no new ideas.	**C–** His blustery statements center on intellectual property theft. He only seems to call out the Chinese as culprits, suggesting he lacks a deeper understanding of the substantive issues. Also, he is painfully unaware of the trade-off between liberty and freedom, on one hand, and security and paranoia on the other.	**C–** He has no clear cyber defense plan, didn't vote on—or even read—the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act and is against Net Neutrality. While many of his stances on key issues are still unclear, he did support reform of the NSA and the USA Freedom Act.	**?** Not enough known to assign him a grade. He has expressed very little about his views on privacy and security, and the opinions that he has expressed are vague: pro-law enforcement, anti-terrorism, but with little context.
Brian Huntley IDT911 CISO	**C** Her strengths include her breadth of cybersecurity perspectives, views on China as a cyber adversary, and attitude toward Snowden. But she is on the wrong side of encryption issues and Net Neutrality. And some of her positions on personal privacy issues are weak.	**D** His strengths are that he recognizes and values two fundamental enablers of U.S. national cybersecurity. He is weak on Net Neutrality and his views on Snowden. He has a unique opportunity to improve his grade by defining and advancing a viable national cybersecurity plan.	**B–** His strengths are his views on China and Snowden, his deprecation of Net Neutrality, and his recognition of the critical role the U.S. plays in sustaining global cybersecurity. But he equivocates on key issues. He should also define and advance a more detailed plan.	**C+** His strengths are his views on China and Snowden and his deprecation of Net Neutrality. However, his position is unknown on too many core issues. He has a great opportunity to improve his grade by publicly declaring his position on the core issues.	**C–** His strengths are his views on China and his deprecation of Net Neutrality. But he too has equivocated on core issues, as well as waffled on whether Snowden's law breaking was acceptable. Could improve by defining a viable cybersecurity plan.	**C–** His strengths include his apparent view on China as a cybersecurity adversary and that he recognizes and values two fundamental enablers of U.S. national cybersecurity. Greatest weakness is that his position is unknown on too many core issues.

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