

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

Cyberspace vs. the COVID-19 - Campaigning with COVID - the CyberWar of 2020 grows

COVID-19 has escaped confinement – and earlier than it had to. The lack of timely testing has had an impact, and delays in isolation have helped matters. Now we hear that an airport health screener has been tested positive at SFO – less than a week after the RSA conference which held tens of thousands of cyber security folks. By now they and all of the other potentially infected passengers have reached their global destinations on airplanes. Infections are being confirmed in country after country, state after state, county after county, and this before test kits have been deployed in adequate quantities to even find out the real numbers. The occasional healthy 40-year old has died, but little kids so far appear to be spared.

Isolation as a defense – part 2

Isolation to limit community spread is still a viable idea, and even though many people are now in place beyond the boundaries of existing quarantines, isolation strategies are being used.

- Within Italy, within China, between areas of countries and areas of other countries. But this will likely only give weeks of delay, not the months needed for better understanding treatment and the year or more required for a vaccine.
- Schools and school systems are starting to close down classes in effected areas. In some places, classes are continuing online. This should be the universal response, and as soon as testing gets real enough to find trends, schools can and should do this.
- Sports events are starting to operate without fans in the stadiums. I never liked all the noise anyway, but it will change the experience. Still, most such events are broadcast, and pay per view for real-time could be augmented with speakers to allow remote fans a virtual presence.
- I imaging that major league sports will adapt by providing Darth Vader days where they provide head coverings with embedded masks. There is a big business opportunity for interesting masks – but then there are those nasty regulations about wearing face coverings in public. Will devout Islamic women be protected from the virus to some greater extent? Maybe we should all be wearing these.
- Conferences are increasingly being canceled around high infection rate areas. Top executives are especially avoiding them. But they send (or offer to send) their “underlings”. Remember – the underlings come back and bring the infection to you...

Automated delivery and sterilization of delivered goods and packaging is now a critical challenge. We need instructions from health officials about effective wipe-downs and handling. And of course warehouses should automate this for ingest and output as well as rotating stock to keep packages in warehouse for 7-10 days to allow the virus to die before shipment. If Amazon and a few major retailers and food suppliers would do this, it would have far-reaching benefits, and not just against COVID-19.

My regimen

I am very fortunate to not live in close quarters with lots of other folks. For that reason, I don't need to go in elevators or walks busy streets in close proximity to other people all the time. My wife trains dogs and had to cancel the Del Monte Kennel Club event she runs on Monday because most of the instructors were sick. Not COVID-19 – just regular sick. So the same would of course apply to any illness – with or without a deadly pandemic.

I go for walks along the beach in the mornings – but I used to walk along the sidewalks when I lived further from the beach. No real reason to get close to other people along the way, and while I have always said hello to folks I pass, the risk of infection from a “hello” 8 feet away is clearly not an issue with COVID-19.

I get home, do laundry, paperwork, etc., and work from my home office. If we need to show, we do so, usually during the less crowded times of day. Flexible schedules allow people to avoid the dense pack times, which reduces spread, but not by all that much. The general personal protection approaches of hand washing, not touching your face between hand washings when exposed to others, and finding a way to wipe down packaging is a good idea. I prefer the self-checkout line, but there is no real reason to think this will help – as others have touched the same surfaces. Perhaps a Howie Mandel approach of gloves would be a good idea, when the pandemic is near and if you have to go shopping.

I am still going to small local meetings, but this may end soon. I have long been a fan of Internet-based meetings and live online remote works for me in almost all cases. I am not planning to go to physical meetings with lots of people from all over the world for some time. I have tried to move away from them, and people running these meetings are starting to offer them online anyway. I say it's time to switch over en masse. Not just for the period of high infection rates – but to save on the waste, pollution, expense, time, inefficiency, and other things these meetings cost us all.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) bank notes (paper money) is also spreading COVID-19. All those drug dealers better stop it... But I long ago stopped using paper money or change for almost anything. Plastic of course carries it locally, but not as far. And increasingly, you don't have to cough much of anything to make your payments.

Let's talk political campaigns! (Or not)

In the US, we are in the midst of a political battle between the Democratic candidates, and soon between the candidate and the President. Shaking hands and kissing babies – large rallies with hundreds or thousands of your supporters, and you might blow the election by killing off your constituency – or your candidate! Obviously, this has to be addressed, and all the hand washing (and hand-wringing) will not save you from exposure if you fly from place to place meeting everyone in person. Six feet of distance from the crowd is doable, but you and all your staff coordinating with all the ground troops – pretty likely to increase the spread. Television advertisements didn't do it for Bloomberg, and the Internet campaign strategies will be infested with Russian influencers and everyone else. It's time for cognitive security to grow explosively – or more likely, too late to win the day. But clearly, it has a huge role to play.

Conclusions

So it begins... the global cyber-cognitive-political-influence battles in the cyber-war of 2020. Prepare for deception on a scale previously only explored in theory and games.