Safeguarding Academic Research: How to protect yourself and your work

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If you conduct high-level research at an American university, you are a potential target for our adversaries.

ALL research is valuable to somebody, it’s not just classified and highly advanced technology.

Softer target when compared to DOD contractor, NIH, national lab, etc.

Interested in pure science and unique research.

Foreign adversaries seek to obtain technology and information when it is least restricted and easiest to obtain…before it is classified or protected.

Competitive economic advantage…cheaper, better, faster.
What do adversaries want?

- your cooperation and assistance
- research data
- grant applications and progress reports
- pre-publication research
- techniques and processes
- software and source code
- vendor and supply chain information
- equipment specs
- financial information
- customer and employee data
- technical components
Recruitment

- A trusted and continuing source of information
- Tradecraft and tactics
- Mitigation strategies
- Foreign travel risks and tips
- Importance of reporting and disclosure
Social Engineering

Only amateurs attack machines; professionals target people
Social Engineering

The use of deception to manipulate individuals into divulging confidential or personal information which is later used for fraudulent purposes.
Additional takeaways

- Digital footprint and social media
- Targets of opportunity
- Current and future access to information
- Make yourself a harder target
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- ic3.gov - To report internet scams
- fbi.gov/tips - To report a crime or file a report
- staysafeonline.org – National Cyber Security Alliance
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