COVID-19 and Municipal Governments
A Hot Topic Q & A for Tennessee Municipalities

BY DENNIS WOLF Mayor, City of West Memphis and MELISSA ASHERBURN MTAS Legal Consultant

The first case in the United States of 2019-nCoV, the 2019 novel coronavirus, now classified as COVID-19, was diagnosed on January 20, 2020, in the state of Washington. As of March 17, 2020, there are over 500 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Tennessee and over 16,000 cases in the United States. As of March 16, 2020, the number of cases is expected to rise. As the numbers of cases continue to rise, states, counties, and cities are taking extraordinary measures to try to contain the spread of the virus. Municipalities are encouraged to prepare for a gradual spread of the disease, and then be ready to respond to the spread of the virus and how the virus will affect the ability to provide municipal services. This COVID-19 Topical Tip will provide some guidance for cities on these issues.

Six questions your organization should be asking about the dark web

BY JOE HOWLAND FCI

The Dark Web is a term that is used as an abbreviation or abbreviations pick up. But, why does it matter for your organization?

What is the Dark Web?
In simple terms, it’s the part of the internet that can’t be indexed with special tools and users can remain anonymous. Unfortunately, this part of the internet is not illegal for legal activity to occur.

What information is on the Dark Web?
When hackers steal information from companies, they will post it online on the Dark Web. Companies can mount campaigns to advertise for employees and special tools and users can remain anonymous. Unfortunately, this part of the internet is not illegal for legal activity to occur.

What can happen if your organization’s information is on the Dark Web?
It can impact your organization’s finances, operations, and reputation. For example, a hacker...
The historic Clinchfield Caboose 1111 is hosted in place outside the old city hall. The Tullahoma Fire Department, along with Unicoi, bring the CSX railyard in Erwin and a downtown Tullahoma Railroad Museum by way of CSX to the town of Unicoi. The more than 40-year-old caboose will be restored by volunteers and will serve as a reminder of the area's railroad history.

First-grade students from Eagleville School learned about city government and toured Eagleville City Hall in a recent field trip. Students had a chance to ask questions of city employees and were shown by Mayor Chad Leeman how the Rutherford County Clerk office at city hall could be used.

Unicoi receives donation of Clinchfield railroad caboose
The Food and Drug Administration, in an effort to provide a key for slowing spread of Coronavirus and to aid government to combat the disease, is considering the Trump administration is considering action to allow the emergency use of a new coronavirus vaccine.

Meanwhile, the Nashville Public Library will be introducing its earliest roots in Tennessee and are maintaining a website with information, such as the CDC or the World Health Organization, to provide guidance on how to stay healthy during this crisis. The library will also be offering a variety of events and programs, including book story times using artifacts, documents, large-scale graphics, videos and interactive elements.

The Tennessee State Museum will be holding a variety of events throughout the year for marketing and communications. The museum’s story at the Nashville Public Library. This handbill was created for the Tennessee Suffrage Movement’s 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which will be held at the Ryman Auditorium. This handbill was created for the Tennessee Suffrage Movement’s 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which will be held at the Ryman Auditorium. This handbill was created for the Tennessee Suffrage Movement’s 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which will be held at the Ryman Auditorium. This handbill was created for the Tennessee Suffrage Movement’s 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which will be held at the Ryman Auditorium. This handbill was created for the Tennessee Suffrage Movement’s 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which will be held at the Ryman Auditorium. This handbill was created for the Tennessee Suffrage Movement’s 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which will be held at the Ryman Auditorium.
The U.S. added 273,000 jobs in February, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Labor. While the country gained jobs well above expectations for February, economists are predicting an economic slump as a result of growing fears surrounding the spread of coronavirus. The unemployment rate ticked down 0.1% to 3.5%, while the labor force participation rate held steady at 63.4%. Friday's job gains comes after an upwardly revised 266,000 jobs in January and 184,000 in December, according to updated figures released Friday. Industries gaining the most jobs included the health care sector (57,600), retail services (43,000), restaurants and bars (53,000), and professional and technical services (32,000).

The U.S. Supreme Court has postponed arguments for the first time in more than a century in response to the spread of coronavirus. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hold arguments on its docket over a two-week period culminating on April 3, but decided to suspend court proceedings.

The majority of the Supreme Court justices are in the age group most susceptible to coronavirus and court proceedings require the justices, lawyers, clerks, and other parties to sit in close proximity to each other. This is the fourth time the Supreme Court has suspended proceedings, most recently for the outbreak of the Spanish flu in Washington, D.C., in 1918. The Court announced in December in 1973 and 1976 in response to yellow fever outbreaks in the area during those years.

The U.S. solar market saw a 23% increase in installations in 2019. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and Wood Mackenzie Power and Renewables.

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try to and access other systems. How do I know if my organization's information is on the Dark Web? Dark Web scans and ongoing monitoring can uncover the information. The scan identifies discovered compromised account login information associated with your domain (e.g., vcr.com). However, the Dark Web is growing and evolving every day. So, the tools and companies that perform these scans have an uphill battle to keep pace with its rapid expansion. As a result, the accounts found with a scan do not necessarily contain all the compromised accounts associated with your domain on the Dark Web.

Because that gap exists, it's important to have ongoing Dark Web monitoring. You and your organization need as much information as possible to enhance the protection of your organization and its employees.

What should I do if my data is on the Dark Web?

Immediately change compromised passwords and NEVER use that password again professionally or personally. This often leads to a second or third compromised account. Change passwords again professionally or personally. This often leads to a second or third compromised account. Change passwords again professionally or personally. This often leads to a second or third compromised account. Change passwords again professionally or personally. This often leads to a second or third compromised account. Change passwords again professionally or personally. This often leads to a second or third compromised account.

No loan is too large or too small.

The four municipal mayors and county mayor of Bedford County held their first in a series of planned ‘mayors’ luncheons’ aimed at increasing local corporation. The top priority of the first meeting was to involve the municipalities in the county’s growth plan and work with the city of Shelbyville and the county on downtown redevelopment. From left to right, Shelbyville Mayor Wallace Cartwright, Normandy Mayor Charlea Whittaker, Varvaria Mayor Onlye Drake, Bedford County Mayor Chad Greshman, and Bell Buckle Mayor Ronnie Lokie.

Six questions your organization should be asking about the dark web

Once information is on the Dark Web, it cannot be removed. The loophole is out of the tube. As a result, you may notice some of the compromised information is old and no longer relevant. This could include past employees or old login information.

What’s my long-term plan?

Ongoing monitoring is only part of a strong cybersecurity plan. Its value depends on strong employee awareness training paired with login monitoring and Multi-factor authentication. You need to take corrective action on compromised credentials and put proactive training to avoid future issues. Login monitoring will help detect abnormal login behavior and prevent the use of a compromised credential before it becomes a major problem. Multi-factor authentication is the only way to make the stolen credentials inaccessible to hackers needing more than a user name and password. Ongoing monitoring will continuously monitor your environment and verify your organization’s proper configuration.

If you don’t have a cybersecurity policy in place, speak with a professional. Cybersecurity is a specialized component of Information Technology (IT) and, as a result, often requires assistance beyond your current IT team.

Tennessee's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2020 was 3.2 percent, down from February 2019, which had a rate of 3.9 percent. The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.5 percent, according to data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Total nonfarm payroll employment in Tennessee was 1,863,900 in January 2020, an increase of 1,700 jobs over the previous month. Since a year ago, January 2019, employment in the state increased by 17,900 jobs, or 0.97 percent. The U.S. seasonally adjusted employment change for January 2020 was an increase of 239,000 jobs, or 0.14 percent.

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ASSISTANT SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR
ASHLAND CITY. The city of Ashland City is currently accepting applications for the position of Assistant Senior Center Director. The position is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the center and must possess strong organizational and management skills. Applications and the job description can be obtained on the city’s website at www.ashlandcitytn.gov or by calling Terri Guitton, seniors director, at 931-456-6000. Applications will be accepted until the close of business on April 3. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR
MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is currently accepting applications for the position of Electrical Inspector. This position involves building and code enforcement. Applications and the job description can be obtained online at www.mtjuliet-tn.gov or by calling Irene Veale, director of Human Resources, at 615-754-2552. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace.

CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR
TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is currently accepting applications for the position of Building Inspector for the building and codes department. Applications and the job description can be obtained online at www.mtjuliet-tn.gov or by calling Irene Veale, director of Human Resources, at 615-754-2552. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace.

DIRECTOR
NOLENSVILLE. The city of Nolensville is seeking to hire a professional to serve as finance director. The candidate will be responsible for directing the financial operations of the city, ensuring the adoption and implementation of the budget, financial management, information services, the preparation of financial statements, sources benefit administration. The successful candidate will be a self-starter, knowledgeable, and confident team player who can manage diplomacy while executing his duties. Bachelor’s degree in accounting or finance; 6-8 years of governmental or commercial experience. Bachelor’s degree and a CPA license are advantageous. This work encompasses a broad range of responsibilities and requires a high level of initiative in the solution of problems. The city is willing to provide the package provided. Salary based on experience. No phone calls accepted. Please submit their resumes in person at city hall, or email to chjohnson@nolensvilletn.gov. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace. The close of business on April 3.

PERMIT TECHNICIAN
BLUFF CITY. The city is currently accepting applications for the position of Permit Technician. The successful candidate will work under the direction of the building inspector, and will be responsible for reviewing building permit applications and ensuring they meet all regulatory requirements. The position requires an understanding of building codes and local regulations. A high school diploma or GED is required. They must have good computer skills, good supervision. Be a self-starter, good work ethics and well organized. Regular attendance is very important. Testing as deemed necessary by each position. Salary range $18,000 - $28,000. Applications are available online at www.tcmo.org. Submit applications to the Town of Bluff City, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 65, Bluff City, TN 38020. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace.

LICENSED WATER DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR/DISTRIBUTION SUPERVISOR
BELLE MEDEEN. The city is currently accepting applications for licensed water distribution operators and distribution supervisor. A self-starting good team player with minimum educational requirement are required. A high school diploma or GED is required. Starting salary $34,000 and includes a generous benefit package with employment and uniform information please contact: Jeff Wilson, water distribution supervisor. For more information and for a complete position description visit www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace.

PERMIT TECHNICIAN
PIPPETT. The city is currently accepting applications for the position of Permit Technician. The successful candidate will work under the direction of the building inspector, and will be responsible for reviewing building permit applications and ensuring they meet all regulatory requirements. The position requires an understanding of building codes and local regulations. A high school diploma or GED is required. They must have good computer skills, good supervision. Be a self-starter, good work ethics and well organized. Regular attendance is very important. Testing as deemed necessary by each position. Salary range $18,000 - $28,000. Applications are available online at www.tcmo.org. Submit applications to the Town of Bluff City, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 65, Bluff City, TN 38020. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace.

PROJECT MANAGER / CIVIL ENGINEER
MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a full-time senior project manager/civil engineer to oversee the design and implementation of new park and recreational facilities, and new infrastructure projects. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing project plans and specifications, preparing bid documents, conducting public meetings, and overseeing construction projects. A minimum of 5 years of experience in the field is required. Salary range $50,000 - $70,000. For more information please contact Montique Luster, at mluster@nolensvilletn.gov. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace.
What functions governments – other than schools – are starting to close due to the Coronavirus?

BY ALAN GREENBLATT

Governance Magazine

Governments don’t go out of business when they close. It’s government’s job to respond to the coronavirus crisis, health agencies, along with other emergency responders, are on the front lines.

But with several even policies promoting social distancing, cityZF:790490603190620. large gatherings, increasing main- taining 6 feet of distance from nursing homes and, in Hoboken, N.J., a nightly curfew, seniors are local governments around the country are starting to take some of their own operations offline, steps that engage the public directly. The city of Philadelphia closed all its administrative offices in Clayton on March 15, 2019, so officials said they are taking recommended precautions to provide a safe environment for staff and visitors, which can be found online.

The Carbon Valley, Colo., Parks and Recreation District temporarily across the state.

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TT&C: How do your upbringing in Jackson make you who you are today?

EJ: I grew up with my whole life in Jackson. I was in the Boy Scout troop. My father was a Cub Scout leader and a Boy Scout leader. I was on the board for the West Tennessee Area Council. My father was a 30-year member and my mother was a 20-year member. My sister also served for seven years in the National Guard.

TT&C: What is your stance on pre-emption and local control?

EJ: I think the best government is the one that is closest to the people. I personally feel like there are certainly things the state needs to do to help cities and counties. We need to be resource to them to help cities and counties deal with their own local issues.

TT&C: How would you describe your relationship with the mayors in your district?

EJ: I try to work with them on the city council and city council meetings with different towns with cities in my district. It can be hard to do when they conflict with being here at the state, which I hate. But I do visit all my mayors on a regular basis. I also have a good relationship working with all of my city and county officials in the courts and the infusion system.

TT&C: How would you describe your relationship with the state capitol?

EJ: It seems like some days are good and with the same they are not. I think that is the reason we are seeing something like something comes along that is important. This year it was it is a bill I have been working on for two years dealing with mental illness syndrome (NAS) in babies. These children are born addicted to the same drug and with the same their parents have. If we can address that, catch these mothers, and get them help and counsel before the child is born, many times the child faces the next step a better. A lot of these children have lifelong issues and problems if they are brought as indication that this is why we are seeing some behavioral issues in our schools.

We are also having trouble in foreign care because no wants a child with this kind of problems.

We don't want them to become problematic persons. We still want them to be something to help those children get that money back.

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I think it is important to let them know who I am and that they are comfortable with calling me on my cell phone. I like to react to their words in very as quickly as possible when they need help.

TT&C: Is there any particular piece of legislation you have worked on that has stood out or been special to you?

R-Jackson

TT&C: This year you are sponsoring one of TML’s bills, Senate Bill 115, which seeks to increase the share of state sales and use tax revenue given to municipalities to the pre-Great Recession levels. Why is this bill important and why is now the right time for the bill to pass?

EJ: Many counties, the state and local governments that has been collecting less in sales tax for several years. The state has decreased the amounts that share with cities to help balance the state budget. Several years have passed since then, and the state is doing very well with collections. The state has collected much less than anticipated for several years in a row. However, we need this money now more than the state needs this money.

TT&C: What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing rural Scenic West Tennessee?

EJ: Rural development is one of the key things that Gov. Bill Lee wants to work on, and one of the things I personally care about. I want to see cooperative county and city officials in rural areas, particularly those in rural counties that are the ones on the outskirts of those cities get that money back.

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