Artemus Consulting Group

Volume 8, Issue 8
**April 2-15, 2022**

# FANS SUMMARY WEEKLY

Greetings, FANs. We bring you greetings from the coveted "Artemus Central" where innovation abounds and the stories of the day present themselves so that we can share them with you! This issue is one that we're so very pleased to bring to you simply because we're excited to announce an Artemus event that is loved by all FANs. As COVID hit us all pretty hard, that coveted event was put on the "backburner" of sorts. Yes, dear friends, I'm talking about the famous

## Artemus FANs [In-Person] Luncheon

Yes, that's right! We're back! After a two year time out, we are planning an Artemus FANS in-person lunch for **Thursday, May 19** at **Urbanspace, Tysons Corner Galleria, noon - 2:00.**

Please mark the date and let us know if you will attend. A separate invitation will follow.

Our special guest is **Joseph W. Lambert**, a 33-year veteran of the CIA, retired in 2017 as the Agency's Director of Information Management Services. In that capacity, he was responsible for records management, national security classification management and all declassification and release and pre-publications review programs at the CIA. He also served as the CIA's Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer.

For more than a decade Joe was at the center of every major issue involving classification, declassification and release of CIA information ranging in topics from JFK documents to aliens at Area 51. He oversaw the review of book manuscripts and op-ed articles pertaining to the CIA authored by former officers and managed the release of once highly classified information on the range of Agency activities from overhead programs to agent operations and underground sensors. Anytime CIA directors were surprised about CIA information appearing in public reports, their first call was to Joe and often not to offer congratulations.

Joe earned degrees in Business Administration from Frostburg State College and the George Washington University. He retired in 2017 and throughout a career spanning more than 3 decades received multiple awards including the CIA's Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal. His unique perspective on handling intelligence secrets will enlighten, amuse and amaze.

**If you can join us (and we really hope that you can!) please let us know by clicking on the the appropriate link below:**

1. Count me in! I'll be attending.

2. I think that I'll be able to attend.

3. Sorry, I'm not able to attend

# DO YOU USE VLC MEDIA PLAYER?  READ THIS ARTICLE!

**contributed by Artemus FAN, Steve Page**

## Chinese hackers are using VLC media player to launch malware attacks

VLC is a super-popular media player for good reason: It's free, open source, and available on just about every platform imaginable. Plus, it can handle basically any audio or video file you throw at it. VLC is also light on resources, meaning it won't slow down your Windows computer — unless, perhaps, it's hiding malicious software. A new report indicates that's entirely possible, due to the efforts of a notorious Chinese hacking gang.

Symantec's cybersecurity experts say a Chinese hacking group called Cicada (aka Stone Panda or APT10) is leveraging VLC on Windows systems to launch malware used to spy on governments and related organizations. Additionally, Cicada has targeted legal and non-profit sectors, as well as organizations with religious connections. The hackers have cast a wide net, with targets in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, Turkey, Israel, India, Montenegro, and Italy.

According to Symantec, Cicada grabs a clean version of VLC and drops a malicious file alongside the media player's export functions. It's a technique that hackers frequently rely on to sneak malware into what would otherwise be legitimate software. Cicada then uses a VNC remote-access server to fully own the compromised system. They can then evade detection using hacking tools like Sodamaster, which scans targeted systems, downloads more malicious packages, and obscures communications between compromised systems and the hackers' command-and-control servers.

The VLC attacks — which Symantec believes may be ongoing — began in 2021 after hackers exploited a known Microsoft Exchange server vulnerability. Researchers indicate that while the mysterious malware lacks a fun, dramatic name like Xenomorph or Escobar, they are certain it's being used for espionage — Cicada's focus hints that this guess is correct. While the group has gone after the healthcare industry in the past, it's also been attacking the defense, aviation, shipping, biotechnology, and energy sectors.

With plenty of funding and sophisticated tools and techniques, groups like Cicada continue to pose a serious threat to computer systems around the world. There are a number of steps that can be taken to help protect against state-sponsored hacking, including maintaining up-to-date security software, using strong passwords, and backing up important data. After all, no one wants to make the hackers' jobs any easier for them.

# TRAVEL MUCH?  SHARE YOUR FAVORITE PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO, BEST EATS!

**a genuine "Steve Jones" idea!**

So many of you are seasoned "world travelers", Well, Artemus FAN, Steve Jones thought it would be a great idea for our FANs to help us compile a list of five restaurants or dumps where they would return to eat again.   By country, state, city, address and website (if applicable).  With that data, we here at Artemus Central would build a tool that you could use as a ready-reference when or if you might need it!

Click the link below and provide us with the following information:

- Country, state, and/or city to which you traveled
- Place of interest (e.g., attraction, restaurant, etc.)
- website (if available)

Send this information to Manny by clicking this link:  **FANs Places to Go List**

# U.S. ARMY BARRACKS WILL BE LARGEST 3D-PRINTED STRUCTURE IN THE WEST

**contributed by FAN Steve Page**

With its speed and efficiency, 3D printing architecture technology has huge potential for military use, both at home and overseas. The U.S. Army clearly recognizes this and plans to build three 3D-printed barracks that it says will be the largest 3D-printed structures in the Western Hemisphere.

The project will be located in Fort Bliss, Texas, and involves the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), the U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM), and the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). It's being built using Icon's Vulcan 3D printer, which is the industry leader at the moment and is being used for everything from housing to NASA bases. The design is handled by Logan Architecture, which was also the architect for Icon's recent 3D-printed House Zero.

Each of the three barracks will measure over 5,700 sq ft (roughly 530 sq m), making each one the joint largest 3D-printed structure in the Western Hemisphere, according to the DIU – to put that size into perspective, one of the largest structure in the world to date is a Dubai administrative building measuring 640 sq m (roughly 6,900 sq ft).

Once complete, they will host 72 soldiers per barracks. The printing process will be much like previous 3D-printed projects we've covered and will involve the Vulcan 3D printer extruding Icon's cement-like proprietary mixture Lavacrete out of a nozzle at up to 5-10 linear inches (12-25 cm) per

## WHAT FANS ARE BUYING (or hoping to buy!)

### Walabot DIY 2 Visual Stud Finder: REVIEW

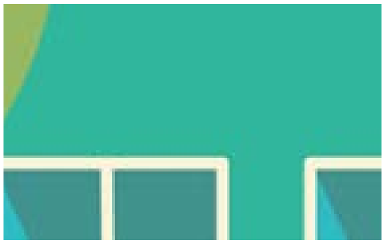
REVIEW – As I mentioned in previous reviews, I am a serious DIYer, and I make sure that I have every tool for every task. That is an expensive approach, so I am very pleased when I get the opportunity to test and review tools. Since I have been remodeling my basement including building walls with studs and putting up shelves, the Walabot DIY 2 Visual Stud Finder should be a great addition to my tool bag. What is it?
The Walabot DIY 2 is an advanced Wall Scanner/ Stud Finder for Android & iOS Smartphones. It provides the ability to find the center of wood and metal studs, to detect and track the paths of pipes and wires, and can even show movement within walls, making it ideal for exterminators.

**READ ALL ABOUT WALABOT DIY2 HERE**

## THIS WEEK IN THE ARTEMUS WEBSITE'S *ARTEMUS SPOTLIGHTS*

**Cyber warfare gets real for satellite operators**

**DoD Identity Awareness, Protection, and Management (IAPM) Guide**



**'A 140-Years-Old Battery Technology Might Change Everything We Know About**

**The Birth of Spy Tech: From the 'Detectifone' to a Bugged Martini**

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Thanks for reading! We hope that you found this issue to be interesting as well as a good reference! Don't forget to mark your calendar for May 19!!!