



Homeland Security

October 31, 2018

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your July 25, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

As part of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) mission to safeguard and secure cyberspace, we share information and provide technical assistance with federal and non-federal entities to assist them with their cybersecurity. We carry out these activities in collaboration with the intelligence community, law enforcement partners, and other federal partners, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as appropriate.

We recognize that "end-of-life" (EOL) software introduces security risks to information systems. We assist, and sometimes direct, federal agencies regarding mitigation of ongoing threats and vulnerabilities, including EOL software. These efforts related to EOL software, including Adobe Flash, include:

- The National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center engaging stakeholders through alerts, training, and regular calls with federal agencies;
- Advising of risks and mitigation guidance;
- Conducting persistent vulnerability scanning of Internet-accessible systems utilizing the Cyber Hygiene program and required mitigations through Binding Operational Directive 15-01, *Critical Vulnerability Mitigation*;
- Performing High Value Asset assessments that include approaches to resemble tactics, techniques, and procedures used by advanced threat actors attempting to gain unauthorized access and requiring mitigation of identified vulnerabilities required through Binding Operational Directive 18-02, *Securing High Value Assets*; and,
- Identification and alerting of known vulnerabilities in software through the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation tools deployed by DHS into federal agency networks.

Specific to Adobe Flash, we are developing a removal strategy which will focus on awareness, assistance, and if needed, directed action.

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Page 2

Thank you again for your letter. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Krebs", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Christopher C. Krebs
Under Secretary