NTT DATA
Trusted Global Innovator

# NTTDATA-CERT Global Security Quarterly Report: April - June 2018

August 13th, 2018 (Revised November 20th, 2018)
NTT DATA Corporation

# Table of Contents







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# Executive Summary

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was enforced on May 25. Companies providing services for EU residents are required to pay more attention to handling of personal information. Cyber attacks targeting cryptocurrencies for monetary purpose are actively carried out. The number of ransomware attacks is decreasing, but medical institutions and critical systems are targeted for ransom money. Basic preventive measures against malware, such as fixing vulnerability of software, installing and updating anti-virus software and backing up data, are still important.

**(1) Domestic and overseas trends to protect personal information**

- On March 17, it was revealed by a newspaper that Cambridge Analytica, a UK consulting firm for elections, had exploited personal information obtained from Facebook for its business without permission. Facebook announced that up to 87 million users were involved. SNS users should use SNS considering risks that information posted on the SNS or provided for the SNS applications could be leaked or exploited.
- On June 14, information was leaked from a hotel booking service provider Fastbooking due to unauthorized access. Japanese hotels which outsourced the booking service to them were also involved, which drew attention as a GDPR case.

**(2) Trends in cyber attacks**

- The Verge, Bitcoin Gold and Monacoin cryptocurrencies were hit by 51% attacks, causing double-spending transactions at the exchanges of the above cryptocurrencies. Until then, a real threat of 51% attacks was said to be low, but the above case revealed necessity of measures in the exchanges against 51% attacks.
- Multiple cases were found where large-scale botnets were formed exploiting vulnerabilities and insecure configurations of routers. Venders requested their customers to update firmware, change the default password, and not to publish the management interface to the Internet.

# Executive Summary – Time line of related events –

▲: Globally common ▲: Specific regional ▲: Domestic in Japan
: Vulnerabilities : Threats : Cyber attacks/incidents
: Countermeasures : Governments

* Dates indicate either when the events happened, or when the related articles were first appeared.

4Q | April | May | June

## (1) Domestic and overseas trends to protect personal information

### Events related to handling of personal information

- ▲ 3/17 It was revealed that Cambridge Analytica had exploited personal information obtained from Facebook for its own business.
- ▲ 4/4 The number of Facebook users whose information was leaked turned out to be up to 87 million.
- ▲ 5/25 Enforcement of GDPR
- ▲ 6/14 Information leakage at a hotel booking service provider FastBooking occurred, affecting over 4,000 hotels in 100 countries.
- ▲ 6/14 Multiple Japanese hotels such as Prince Hotels disclosed information leakage.

## (2) Trends in cyber attacks

### Vulnerabilities and attacks exploiting them

- ▲ 3/28 CVE-2018-7600 A remote code execution vulnerability in Drupal
- ▲ 4/18 National Police Agency observed access targeting this vulnerability.
- ▲ 4/25 CVE-2018-7602 A remote code execution vulnerability in Drupal
- ▲ 4/25 Drupal Development Team observed an attack 5 hours after the vulnerability disclosure.

### Attacks targeting cryptocurrencies

- ▲ 5/17 Cryptocurrency Monacoin was hit by a 51% attack.
- ▲ 5/18 Bitcoin Gold was hit by a 51% attack, allowing the attacker to fraudulently get 18 million dollars through double-spending transactions.
- ▲ 5/23 Cryptocurrency Verge was hit by a 51% attack.

### Ransomware attacks

- ▲ 4/6 Computers in Atlanta were infected with ransomware, resulting in closure of the Department of Watershed Management website.
- ▲ 5/1 Computers in the Leominster school district in MA, USA were infected with encrypted ransomware, resulting in payment of bitcoin equivalent to 10,000 dollars to the attacker.
- ▲ 5/22 Atlanta government office systems were infected with ransomware SamSam and a part of the system was suspended.

### Attacks targeting routers

- ▲ 4/4 Logitec announced an increase of attacks manipulating settings of home routers.
- ▲ 5/8 A Mirai-like botnet attacks targeting GPON routers occurred.
- ▲ 5/23 A botnet VPNFilter infected over 500,000 routers, mainly in Ukraine.

## (1) Events related to handling of personal information

### (1-1) Enforcement of GDPR and its effects

On May 25, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was enforced. The GDPR is a framework, formulated by the European Parliament and the European Council, to protect personal information. It is expected to have a great influence as it applies to not only all data managers and processors based in EU but also enterprises providing goods and services for EU. Especially, an influence on “WHOIS”, which provides a service that allows users to obtain information on an owner of a domain or IP address through the Internet, attracted great attention. Currently, a method called “phased access” is adopted, and installation of a system to give access permission to the police department, brand proprietors and security personnel is underway.

### (1-2) GDPR-related phishing scam emails

On May 22, Avira called attention to GDPR-related phishing scam emails (*1-1). These scam emails pretend to be notifications requesting agreement on changes in the personal information policy or handling of personal information accompanied by the enforcement of the GDPR, asking users to enter their personal information in a webpage or infecting the computers with malware. The users must be careful as similar phishing scam emails pretending to be famous companies such as Apple, PayPal and Airbnb have been reported. The users must carefully handle emails related to the GDPR such as by not clicking links unnecessarily or checking whether any suspicious details are contained.

# I. Hot Topic (2/11)
## (1) Events related to handling of personal information

### (1-3) Case examples that could be violating the GDPR

Global companies, especially those providing services for EU residents, must pay more and more attention to information handling, both internally and at their subcontractors, etc., due to the enforcement of the GDPR.

- On May 25, an NGO noyb filed a case against four companies including Google and Facebook. It claimed that those companies forced new privacy policies on users, violating the GDPR (*1-2).
- On June 26, Prince Hotels announced that 124,963 cases of personal data had been leaked. This was caused by unauthorized access to the booking system servers for English, Korean and Chinese in Fastbooking, a booking service provider of Prince Hotels (*1-3).

### (1-4) Personal information handling in SNS

News related to Facebook's personal information protection drew great public attention.

- On March 17, unauthorized sharing of data of 50 million people with Cambridge Analytica attracted public interest (*1-4).
- On April 4, unauthorized sharing of data with Cambridge Analytica was revealed to affect 87 million people (*1-5).
- On April 10 and 11, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg was called at the US Congress because of some cases including unauthorized data use by Cambridge Analytica. Zuckerberg apologized for multiple issues, saying that he had not taken sufficient measures against the misuse and it had been his fault (*1-6).

When giving personal information to SNS and cloud services, care should be taken such as by reading terms of service carefully, avoiding provision of unnecessary information and setting the scope of information sharing properly. In addition, SNS users should use SNS considering risks such as leakage and unauthorized use of information posted on SNS and given to SNS applications.

## (2) Attacks targeting routers

### (2-1) Attacks targeting routers for business use

- On April 5, Cisco Talos called attention to attacks exploiting a vulnerability of Cisco Smart Install Client, CVE-2018-0171 (*2-1). Over 168,000 routers all over the world, and over 10,000 routers in Japan were vulnerable (*2-2).

  The volume of traffic searching Cisco Smart Install Client had been increasing since November 2017 (see Figure 1) and further increased just after the vulnerability CVE-2018-0171 was announced in March. Attackers could easily find vulnerable routers using searching tools such as Shodan, which drastically increased attacks.

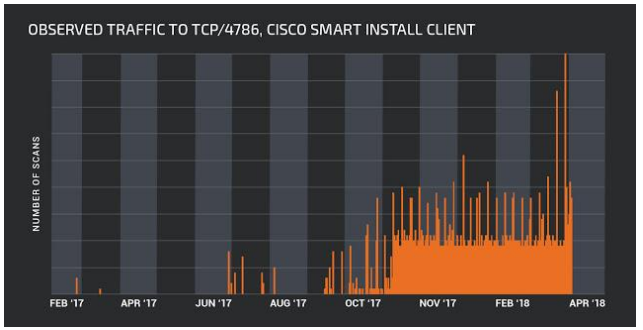


Figure 1: Traffic to Cisco Smart Install Client's port (Sourced from Cisco "Critical Infrastructure at Risk: Advanced Actors Target Smart Install Client (*2-1)")

- On April 16, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the US and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) in the UK jointly released a warning on Russian Government cyber activities (*2-3). They stated that cyber attacks exploiting the vulnerability of Cisco Smart Install Client were carried out targeting government and private sector network devices.

# I. Hot Topic (4/11)
## (2) Attacks targeting routers

**(2-2) Attacks targeting routers for consumers**

- Malware VPNFilter infected over 500,000 routers for consumers all over the world (*2-4). VPNFilter sets a three-step attack against routers for consumers.
- Infection by malware Roaming Mantis spread especially in the Asian region. Roaming Mantis tampers the DNS settings of routers and steals personal and credit card information such as by installing malware into or displaying a phishing website on Android terminals which have accessed to the Internet via the routers (*2-5). In Japan, routers for consumers made by computer accessory manufacturers such as Logitec and Buffalo suffered from the attacks (*2-6).

**(2-3) Countermeasures against these attacks**

- The manufacturers informed that users should contact them immediately when an attack on their routers is suspected. Typical countermeasures against the attacks targeting routers include updating the firmware of the routers to the latest version, changing the default password of the management interface to a complex one and not disclosing the management interface to the Internet.
- Restarting routers infected with VPNFilter can delete malware infected at the second and the third steps. As malware infected at the fist step is installed in the non-volatile memory in the routers, they should be reset to the factory settings to delete the malware.
- On March 6, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications submitted to the Congress a proposal to revise the act on the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) (*2-7). This is to allow the NICT under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications to investigate and identify vulnerable IoT devices and to call attention to the users.

Countermeasures taken by consumers themselves are limited. It is expected that security venders and network device manufacturers provide auto-update and that manufactures strengthen countermeasures satisfying the standards established by the government.

**(3) Attacks targeting cryptocurrencies**

**Classification of attacks**

Table 1 shows classification of attacks targeting cryptocurrencies by the transaction and the target. In the past reports, this classification was used to consolidate data by comparing it against attacks targeting traditional currencies. In this report, attacks are classified by the target.

**Table 1: Classification of attacking techniques targeting cryptocurrencies**

| Transaction of cryptocurrency | Target | Description and example of attacks |
|---|---|---|
| Parties involved in cryptocurrency transactions | Cryptocurrency service providers・・・(3-1) | Attacks targeting the wallet of cryptocurrency exchanges |
| | Cryptocurrency service users | Attacks stealing authentication information used to login to the cryptocurrency exchanges |
| Regardless of cryptocurrency transactions | PC owners・・・(3-2) | Infecting cryptocurrency miners. Drive-by mining, etc. |

**(3-1) Attack against cryptocurrency service providers**

- On May 22, a transaction application Taylor was hacked, with cryptocurrency equivalent to 1.5 million dollars stolen (*3-1).
- On May 23, a cryptocurrency Verge was hit by a 51% attack, resulting in damage of 1 million dollars equivalent (*3-2).
- On June 10, ICO tokens equivalent to 40 million dollars were stolen from a Korean cryptocurrency exchange Coinrail (*3-3).
- On June 20, cryptocurrency equivalent to 31 million dollars was stolen from a Korean cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb (*3-4).

A 51% attack refers to an attack performing fraudulent transactions by controlling a majority of calculation necessary for cryptocurrency transactions. One of the countermeasures against the 51% attack at cryptocurrency exchanges is to increase the number of approvals confirmed at each transaction. This makes the transaction less affected by fraudulent operation of the blockchain even if a specific attacker accounts for the majority of calculation. The users can avoid all of the above attacks by moving their funds from the wallet in the exchange to their self-managed wallet after each transaction.

**(3-2) Attacks targeting PC owners**

- On June 16, a Chinese security company Qihoo 360 reported an epidemic of malware WinstarNssmMiner.
  This malware infected approx. 500,000 PCs within three days by cryptojacking (*) and mined cryptocurrency Monero equivalent to 28,000 dollars fraudulently (*3-5). One of the countermeasures against this is to use a web browser protected from the cryptojacking or a browser extension having a similar function.
  (*) Cryptojacking: a case where malicious third parties embed malicious codes in a website and execute the codes on PCs of the site visitors without permission to fraudulently mine cryptocurrencies
- Amazon Fire TV and Fire TV Stick were also infected with malware ADB.Miner, which infected Android devices and mined cryptocurrency Monero (*3-6). When such devices as Fire TV are infected with malware, users may notice some symptoms such as the video stopping immediately or not being able to play. Devices infected with malware should be reset to the factory settings to delete the malware.

Attackers are focusing their efforts on attacks such as the above to get cryptocurrencies fraudulently through PC owners because the attacks are more reliable than ransomware to make profits. General users who are not cryptocurrency exchanges or cryptocurrency users also need to be careful about infection of malware which mines cryptocurrency using CPU resources of PC.

**(4) Ransomware Satan now has a function for spreading infection**

In the mid-April 2018, many attacks utilizing EternalBlue were observed. These attacks are assumed to be carried out by ransomware Satan (also known as DBGer) using EternalBlue (*4-1). Satan provides cloud services for various operations such as creating ransomware, collecting ransom money and providing an encoding tool for victims who have paid ransom money. These services are called RaaS (Ransomware as a Service).

The following functions for spreading infection were added to Satan.

- January 2017: Satan was discovered (*4-2).
- November 2017: Satan started to use EternalBlue to spread infection (*4-3).
- May 2018: Satan started to use vulnerabilities of JBoSS and Weblogic to spread infection (*4-4).
- June 2018: Satan changed its name to DBGer and started to use Mimikatz to spread infection (*4-5).

Compared to Cerber, one of the well-known RaaS, Satan differs in the following aspects:

- The share of ransom money paid to the cloud service provider is 30% in the case of Satan (*4-2) and 40% in the case of Cerber (*4-6).
- Satan has functions for spreading infection.
  Cerber has functions for avoiding detection and stealing cryptocurrencies (*4-7).

## (5) Attacks on supply chains

### (5-1) Attacks targeting software developers

- It was found out that a backdoor was embedded in the getcookies package registered in “Node Packaged Modules (npm)”, which manages JavaScript environment for servers, Node. js (*5-1).
- A backdoor stealing SSH authentication information was found out to be embedded in the Python module “SSH Decorator”. The developer reports that the module embedded with the backdoor was fraudulently uploaded on the distribution website (*5-2).
- GitHub accounts of Gentoo Linux were hacked, and malware for deleting files were installed (*5-3).

Some cases have been reported where developers’ accounts for software distribution websites were hacked. This requires countermeasures such as installing multi-factor authentication for software distribution websites.

### (5-2) Inserting malicious codes in image files

Malicious PowerShell scripts were embedded in skins (PNG file) for changing the appearance of avatars in a sandbox game Minecraft.
The fact that Minecraft: Java Edition users can upload customized skins onto the Minercraft website was misused (*5-4).
In this case, it is reported that downloading skins alone will not execute the code (*5-5).

Figure 2: Skins embedded with malicious scripts (Sourced from Avast “Minecraft players exposed to malicious code in modified ‘skins’ (*5-4)”)

# I. Hot Topic (9/11)
## (6) Policy not requiring periodic password changes

**(6-1) Opposition to periodic password changes**

It was discovered by domestic and overseas researches that forcing periodic password changes increases risks instead because users tend to use a simple password or reuse a password. Introduction of multi-factor authentication and risk-based authentication is expected to accelerate in the future instead of the periodic password changes.

- December 2017: NIST stated in SP800-63B (Digital Identity Guidelines) that service providers should not request periodic password changes (*6-1).
- December 2017: NISC specified in its information security handbook that periodic password changes are not necessary (*6-2).
- March 2018: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications specified in the information security website for citizens that “periodic password changes are not necessary”.
- April 2018: JIPDEC, a PrivacyMark issuing agency, modified the examination standards for certification so that it does not require periodic password changes in using the Internet (*6-3).
- April 2018: Yahoo announced a policy that it would delete the statement for encouraging periodic password changes (*6-4).

Some services may request periodic password changes, but the users do not have to change their passwords unless there is a fact that their passwords have been stolen and the accounts have been hacked, or that their passwords have been leaked from the service providers.

Sourced from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications “For Safe Use of the Internet: Information Security Website for the Citizens”
http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/security/business/staff/01.html

**(7) Cyber attacks related to international events**

**(7-1) 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia**

- On June 4, fake messages of official jersey wins were spread in Whatsapp targeting Brazilian users (*7-1).
- On June 6, email scams of FIFA World Cup-related lottery wins were discovered (*7-2).
- On June 14, a person from a US intelligence agency stated that mobile devices of people travelling in Russia may be fraudulently accessed by the Russian government (*7-3).
- On July 6, the Ministry of Defense in Israel announced that an attack targeting soldiers of Israel to install Android spyware occurred. The spyware was disguised as a news flash app for World Cup game results (*7-4).


Figure 3: Email scam of World Cup-related lottery wins (Sourced from ESET “You have NOT won! A look at fake FIFA World Cup-themed lotteries and giveaways (*7-2)”)

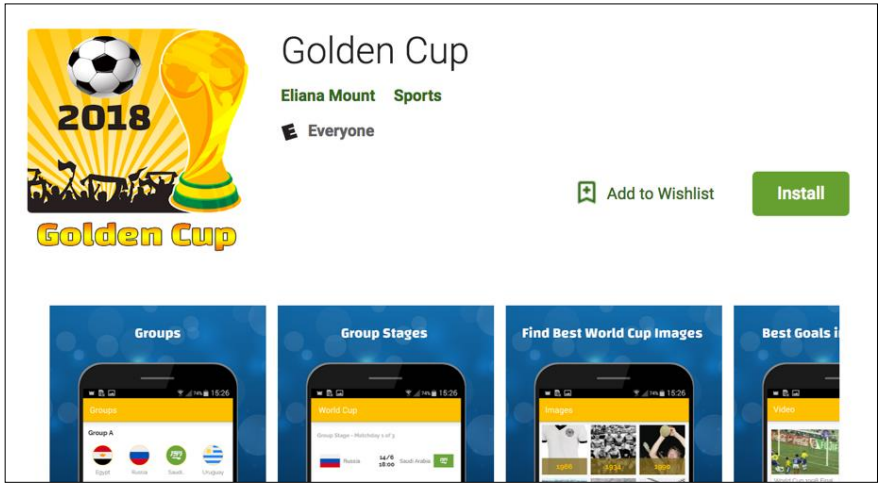


Figure 4: Malware disguised as a news flash app for the game results (Sourced from Symantec “GoldenCup: New Cyber Threat Targeting World Cup Fans (*7-4)”)

### (7-2) North Korea-United States Summit in Singapore

- On May 31, Cisco Talos found malware disguised as a document related to the North Korea-United States summit in Singapore which was to be held on June 12. This document was created in a form of “Araea Han-geul”, word processor software holding the top share in South Korea, and intended to install a remote access tool NavRAT. The malware was communicating with the C&C server via NAVER email platform, the largest Korean Internet search portal website (*7-5).

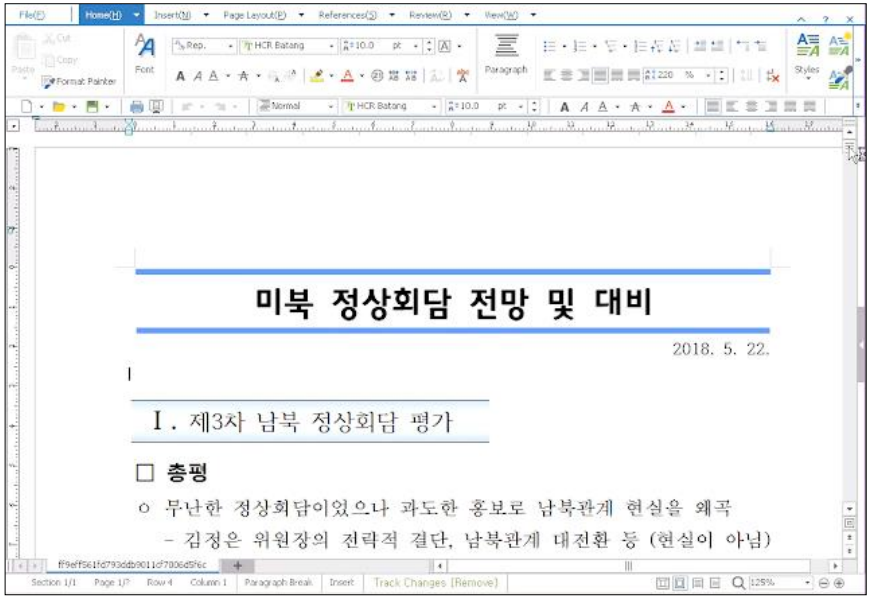


Figure 5: Hangul document disguised as a summit-related document (Sourced from Cisco “NavRAT Uses US-North Korea Summit As Decoy For Attacks In South Korea (*7-5)”)

- On June 4, FireEye announced analytical results indicating that a North Korea hacking group APT37 and a Chinese group are exchanging information on cyber attacks. APT37 is continuously spying South Korea, aiming to steal foreign policy information of the South Korean government (*7-6).

# II. Forecast (1/2)

**(1) Spread of cyber attacks related to the GDPR**

- Companies violating the GDPR are fined up to 4% of their annual sales or 20 million Euros as penalty. Cyber criminals may exploit this regulation to threaten companies. For example, the following scenarios are assumed.
  1. A cyber criminal steals personal information from a company handling EU residents' personal information.
  2. The criminal shows the company a part of information that he has stolen and threatens to leak the information unless the company pays money.
  3. If the company fails to notify the competent authority about it in time, the criminal requests a larger amount of money bringing up the penalty.

- Phishing scams requesting compliance with the GDPR to stir feelings of anxiety and GDPR-themed business email scams may spread widely. Using the regulation which obliges companies to notify the information leakage to the competent authority within 72 hours, the criminal may encourage companies to hasten the payment.

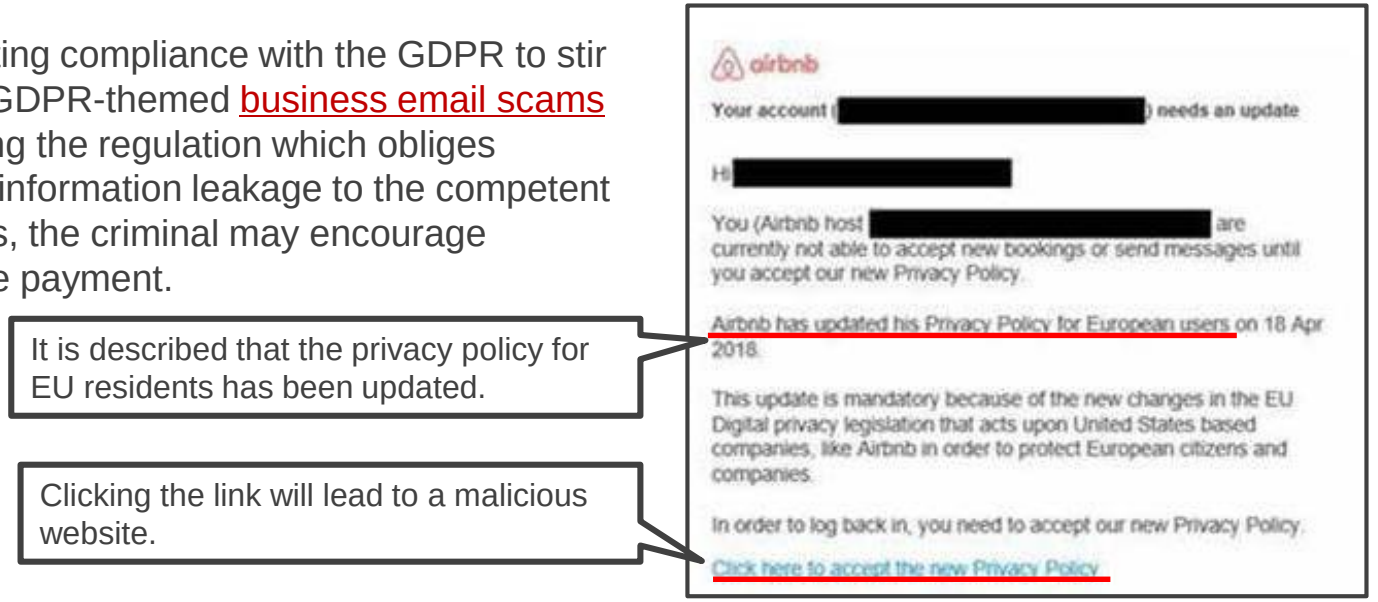


Figure 6: Phishing email disguised as Airbnb to request agreement on the privacy policy
(Sourced from Redscan "REDSCAN IN THE NEWS: RAISING AWARENESS OF GDPR PHISHING SCAMS (*8-1)")

# II. Forecast (2/2)

**(2) New targets for cryptocurrency mining software**

Cyber attackers are more likely to aim for acquiring cryptocurrencies fraudulently as a means to make profits more reliably than ransomware. Meanwhile, however, software for mining cryptocurrencies fraudulently, “miner”, is now being increasingly detected by anti-virus software and excluded from official application stores. It is now getting difficult to mine cryptocurrencies using private personal computers and smart phones.

On the other hand, while companies are accelerating the use of cloud services, security measures for them tend to be reactive. It is expected that attacks will increase where attackers fraudulently login to an account using vulnerabilities and faulty settings of the cloud environment such as Kubernetes where the construction and operation have been automated, and install software for mining cryptocurrencies to carry out a large-scale fraudulent mining.

**(3) Cyber attacks related to political events during Q2 to Q3 in FY2018**

- In relation to the trade friction between the US and China, cyber attacks may get overheated between the two countries.
- In relation to the midterm election in the US on November 6, risk of cyber attacks on election systems will increase. Also, fake news targeting manipulation of the election may circulate as in the 2016 presidential election.

# III. Timeline (1/10)

▲: Globally common ▲: Specific regional ▲: Domestic in Japan
: Vulnerabilities : Threats : Cyber attacks/incidents
: Countermeasures : Governments

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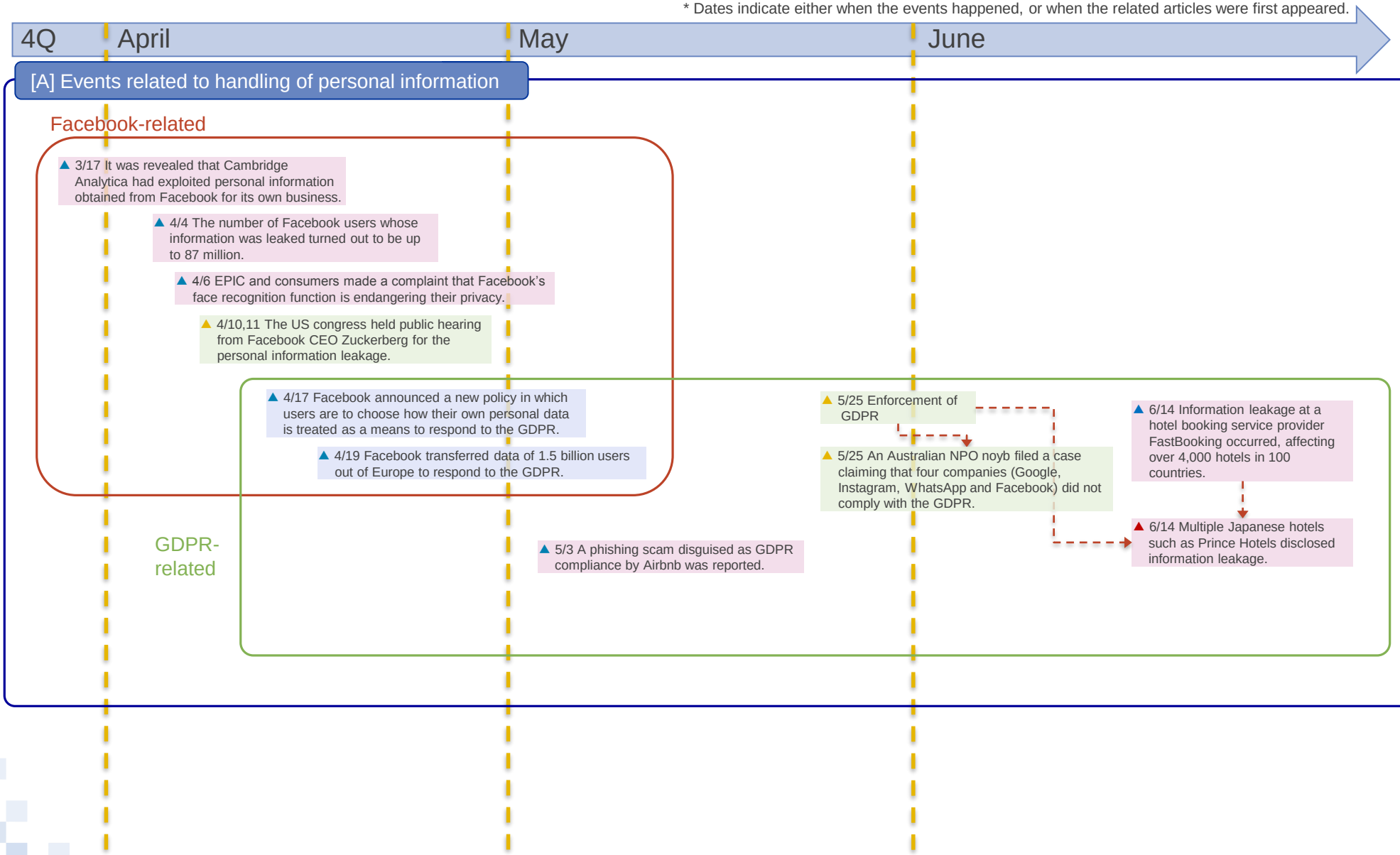

# III. Timeline (2/10)

▲: Globally common ▲: Specific regional ▲: Domestic in Japan
: Vulnerabilities : Threats : Cyber attacks/incidents
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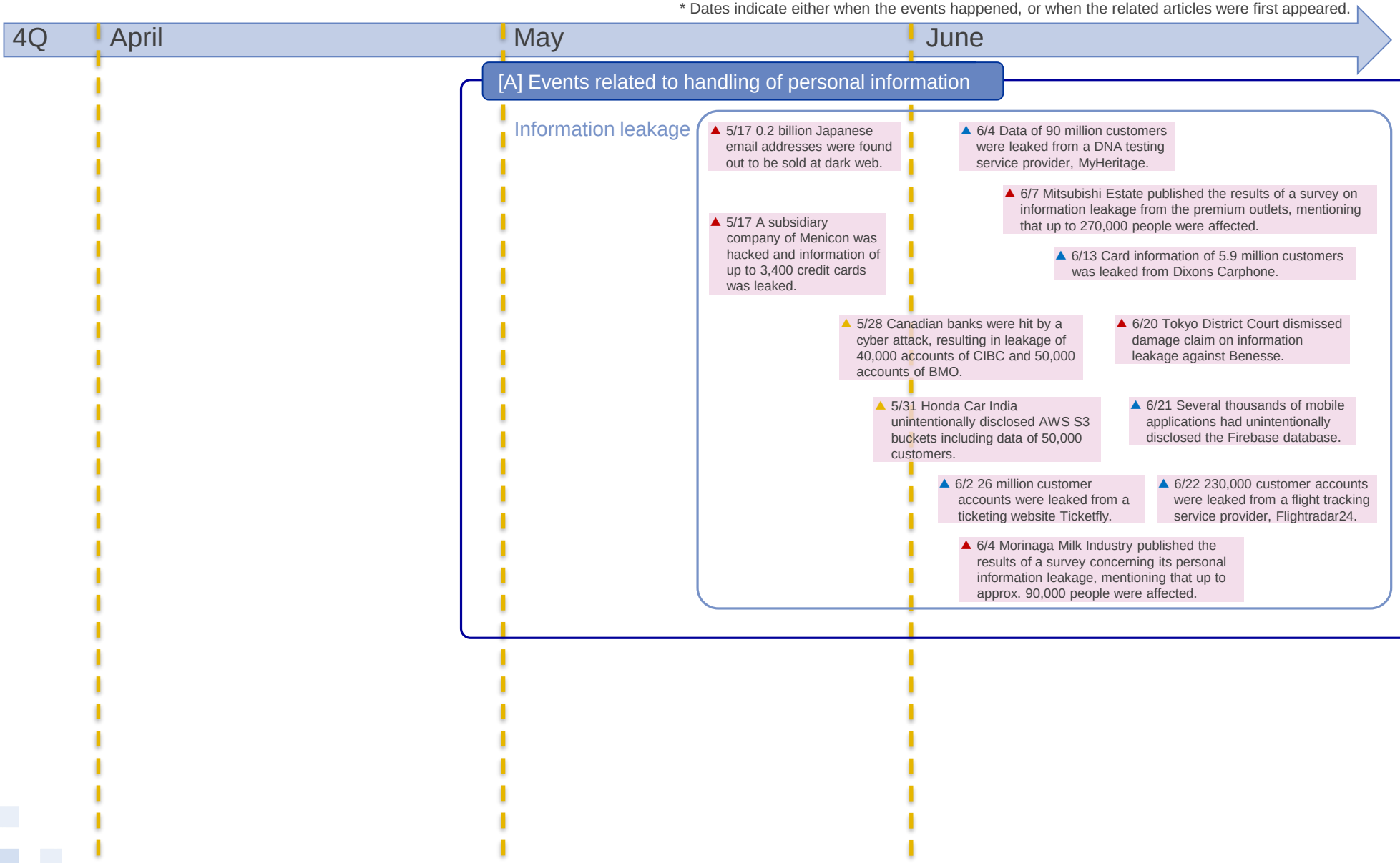
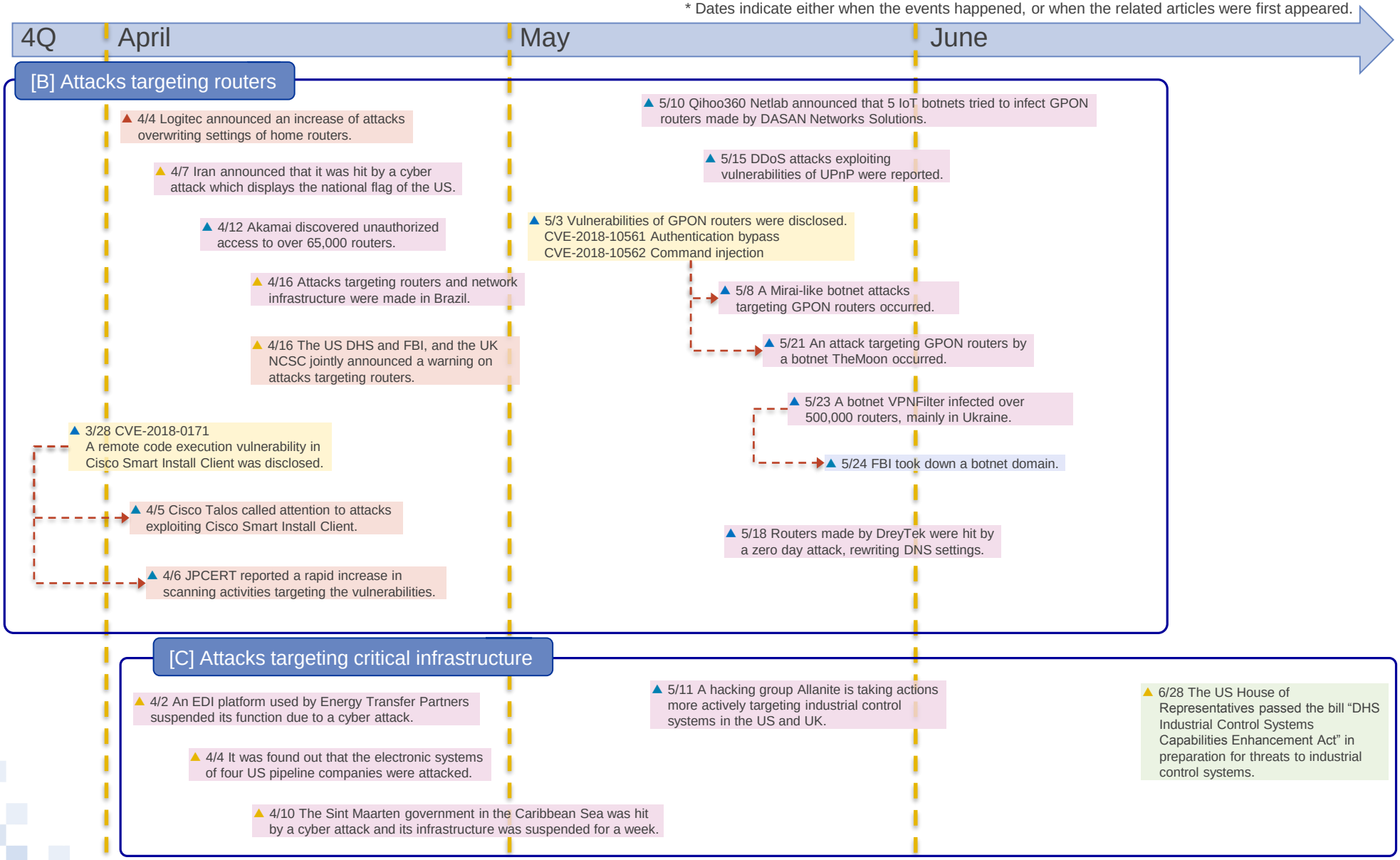


# III. Timeline (3/10)

▲: Globally common ▲: Specific regional ▲: Domestic in Japan
: Vulnerabilities : Threats : Cyber attacks/incidents
: Countermeasures : Governments

* Dates indicate either when the events happened, or when the related articles were first appeared.



# III. Timeline (4/10)

▲: Globally common ▲: Specific regional ▲: Domestic in Japan
: Vulnerabilities : Threats : Cyber attacks/incidents
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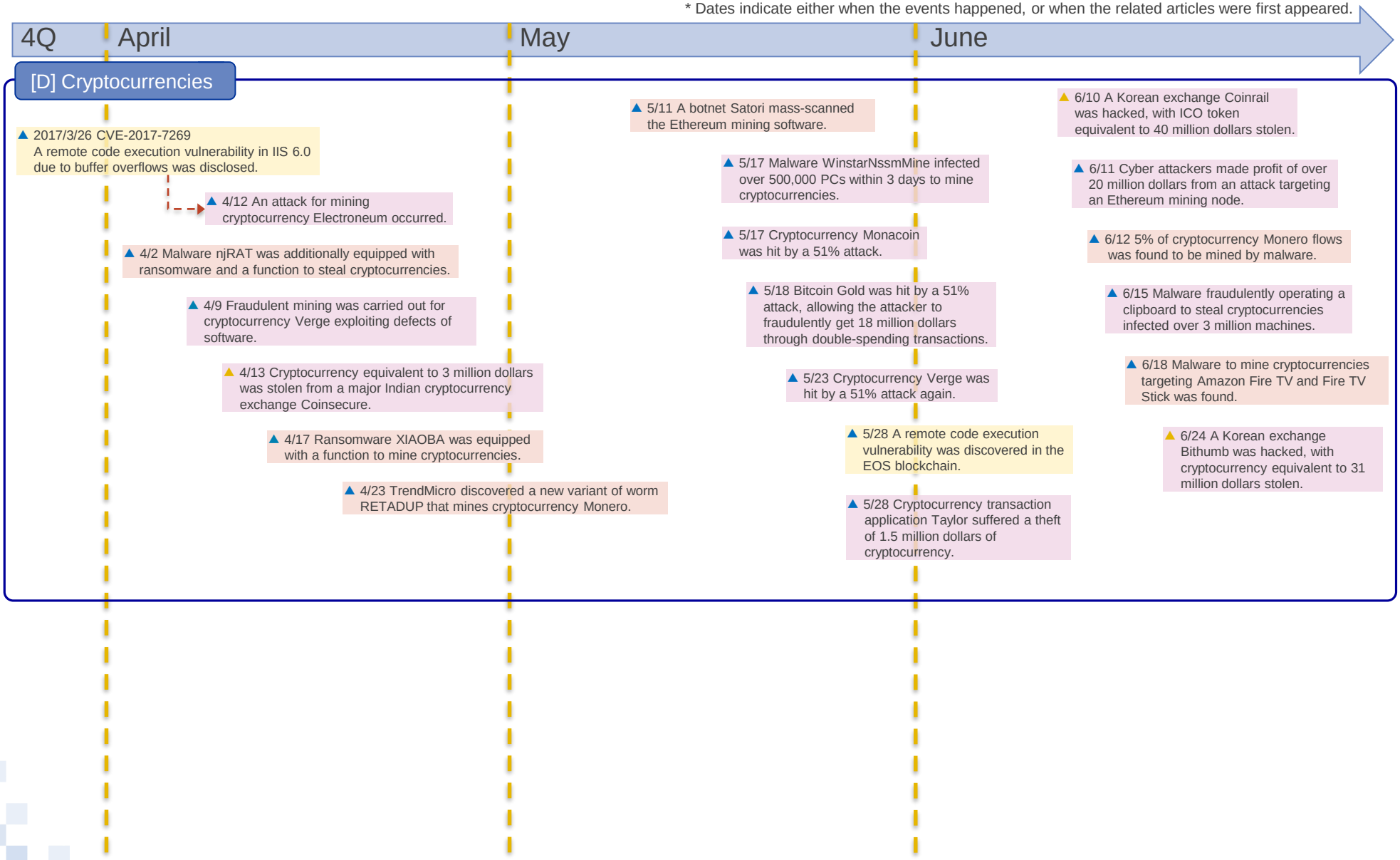

# III. Timeline (5/10)

▲: Globally common ▲: Specific regional ▲: Domestic in Japan
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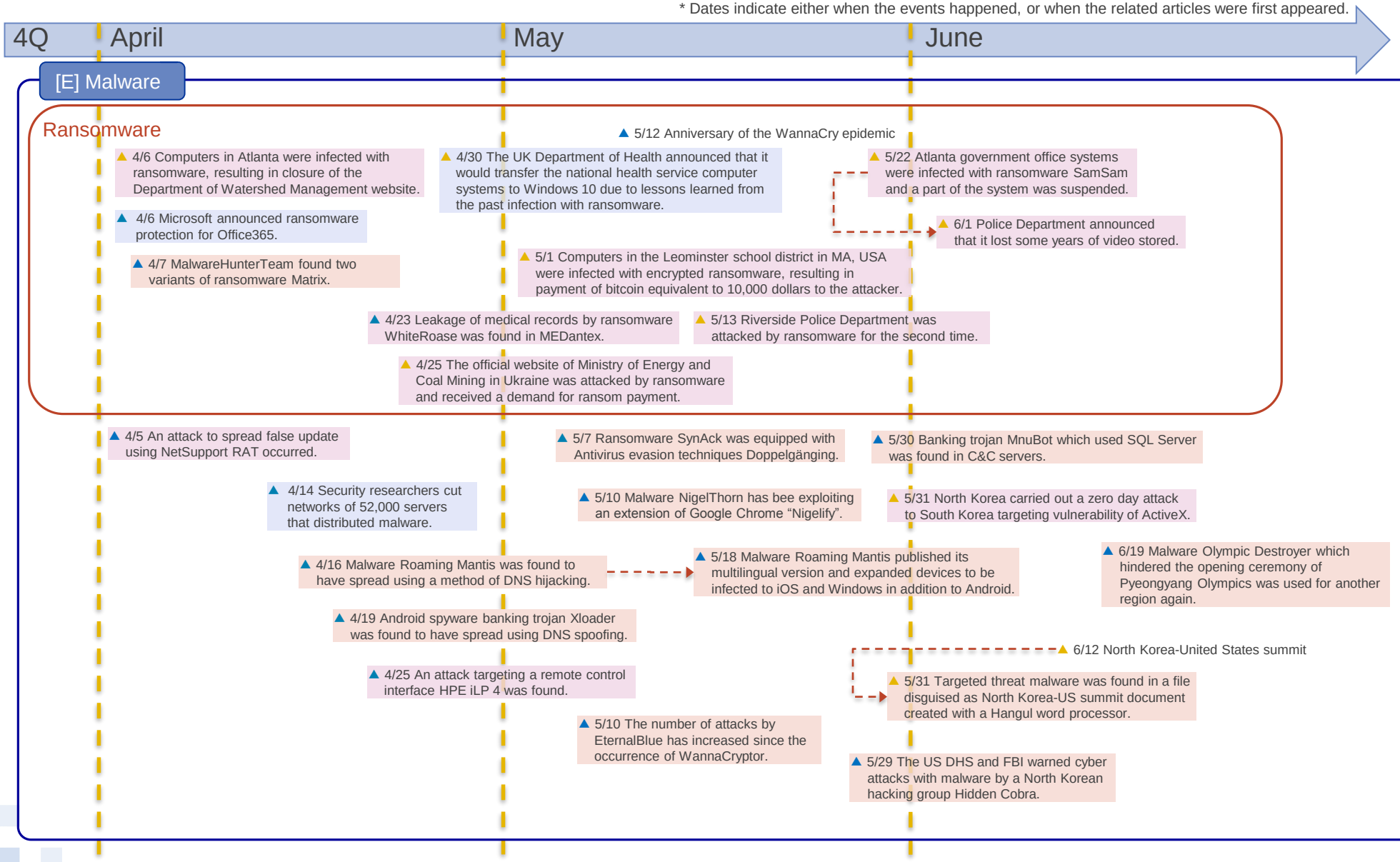




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# III. Timeline (6/10)

▲: Globally common ▲: Specific regional ▲: Domestic in Japan
: Vulnerabilities : Threats : Cyber attacks/incidents
: Countermeasures : Governments

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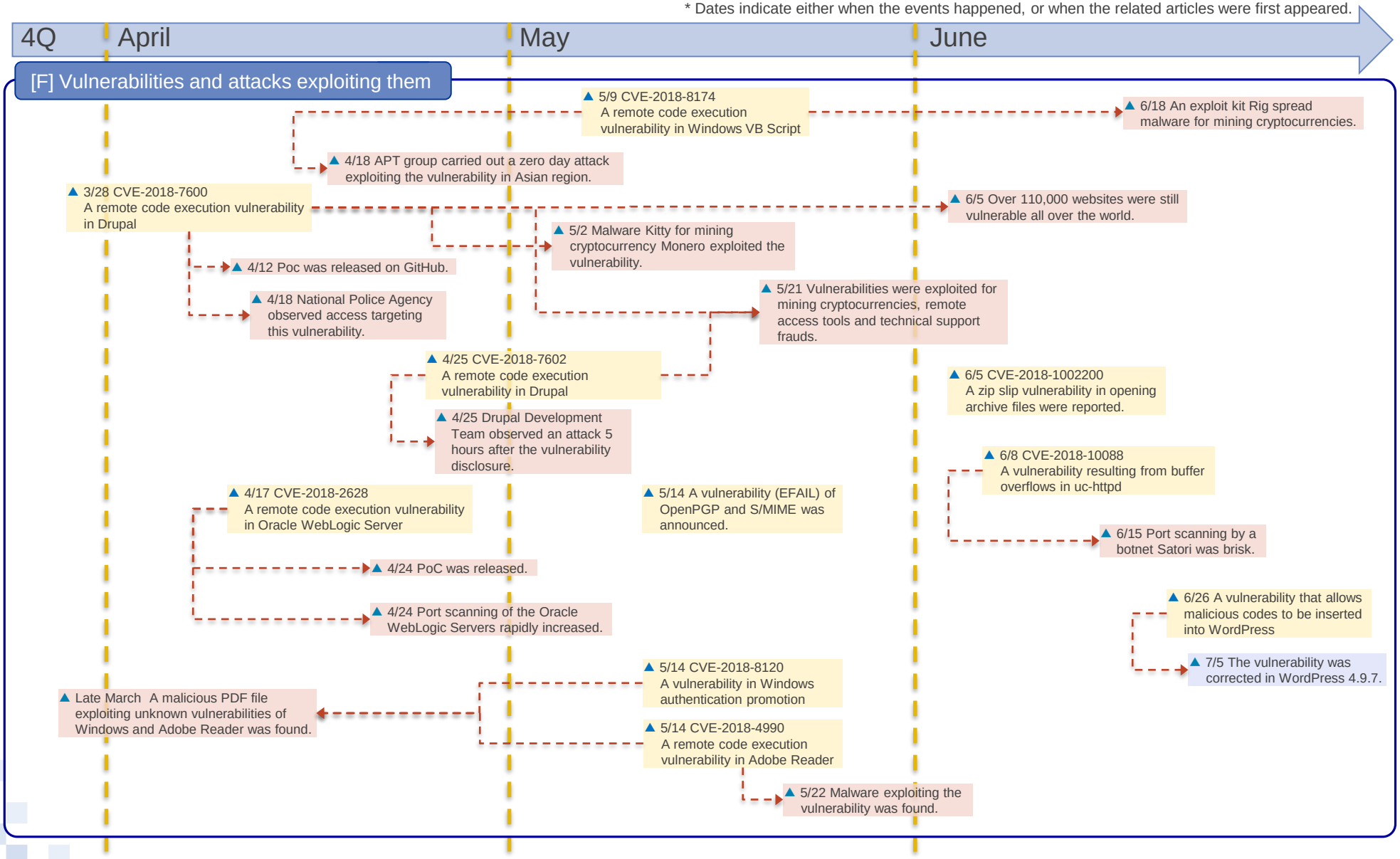

# III. Timeline (7/10)

▲: Globally common
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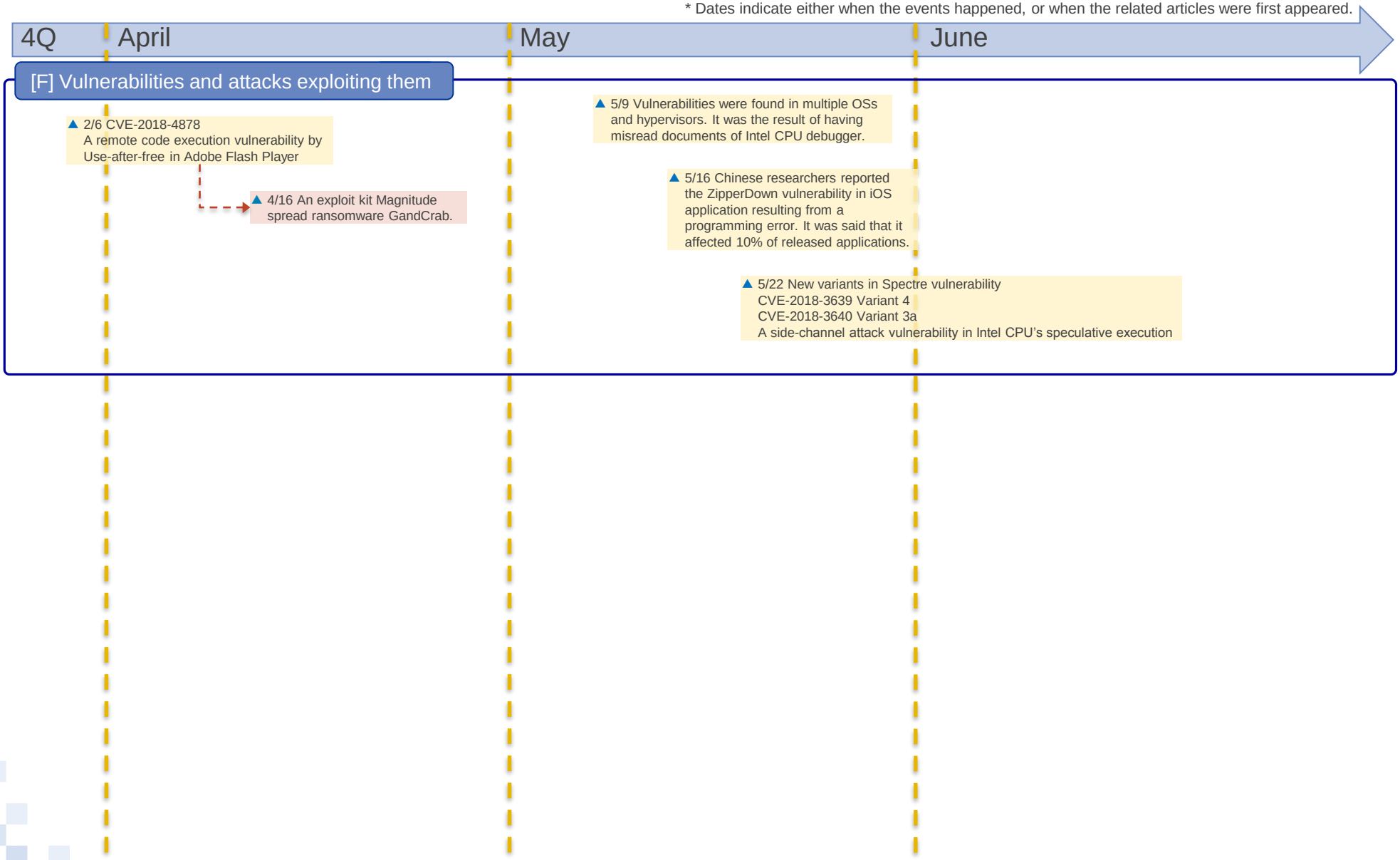

# III. Timeline (8/10)

▲: Globally common
▲: Specific regional
▲: Domestic in Japan
: Vulnerabilities
: Threats
: Cyber attacks/incidents
: Countermeasures
: Governments

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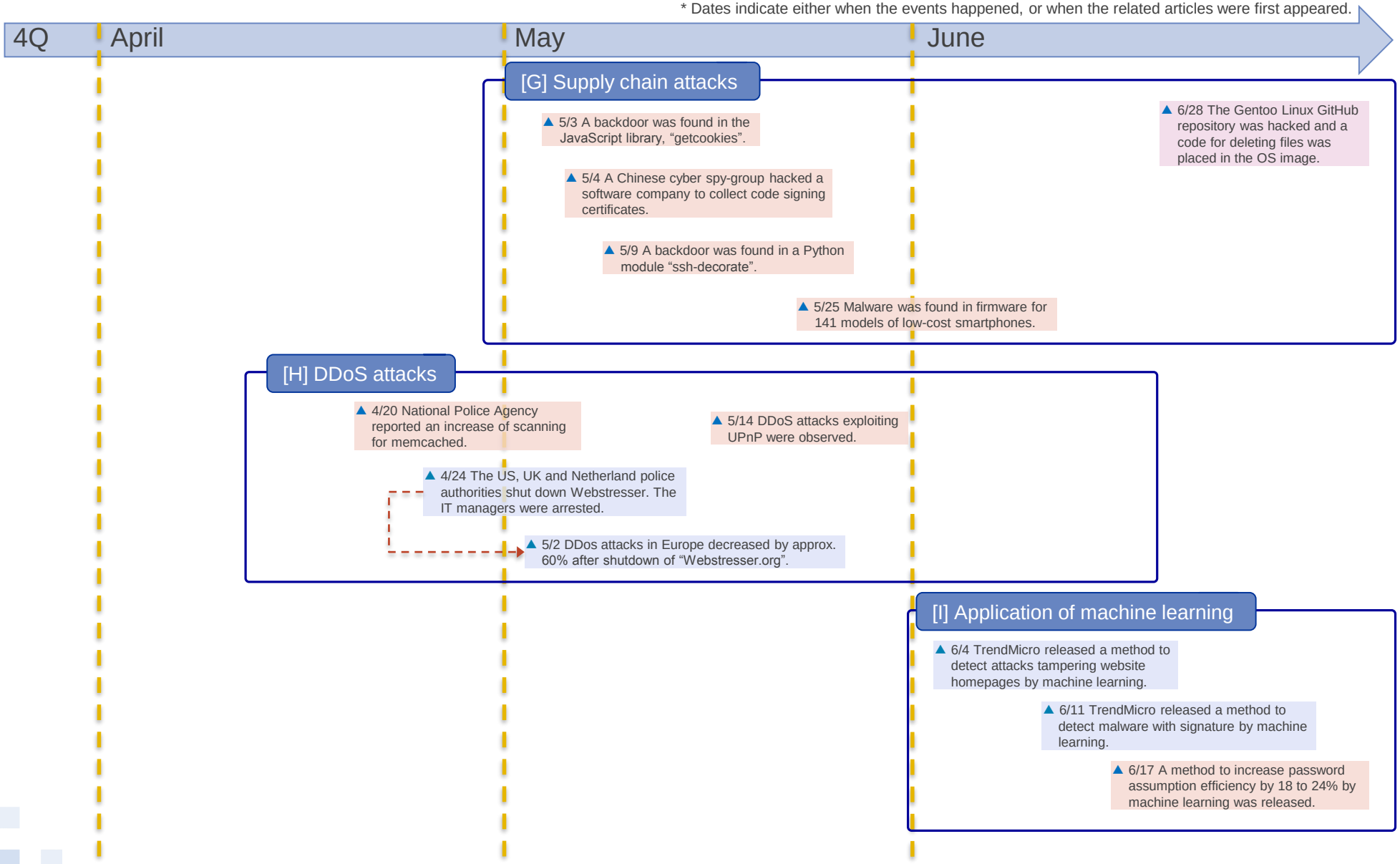

# III. Timeline (9/10)

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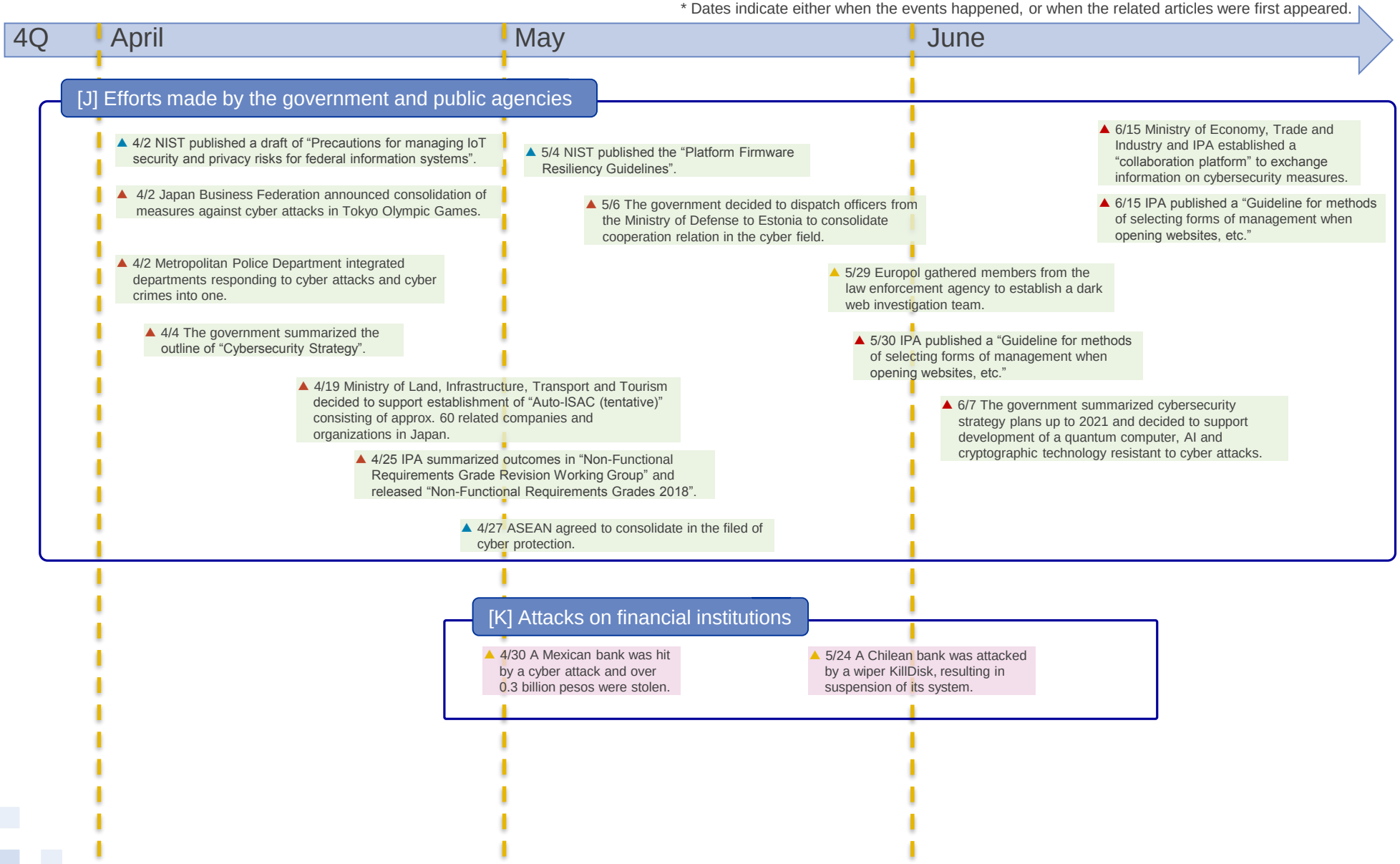
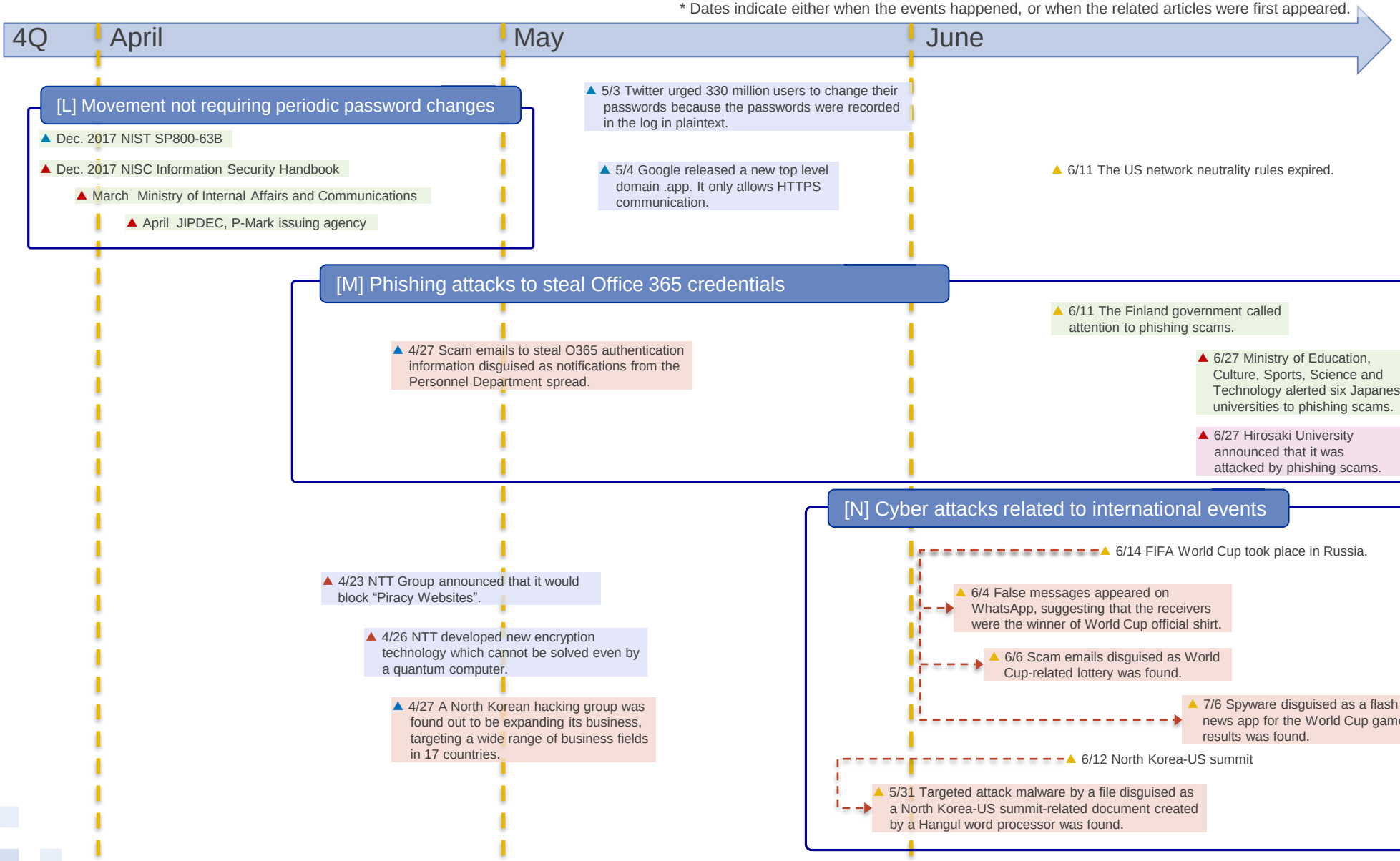


# III. Timeline (10/10)

▲: Globally common ▲: Specific regional ▲: Domestic in Japan
: Vulnerabilities : Threats : Cyber attacks/incidents
: Countermeasures : Governments

* Dates indicate either when the events happened, or when the related articles were first appeared.



# Revised history

| Revised date | Page | Revised part | Revised contents |
|---|---|---|---|
| November 20th, 2018 | 8 | (2-2) Attacks targeting routers for consumers | We found the following error and fixed it.<br>(Error)Malware VPNFilter infected routers made by Logitec and Buffalo.<br>(Correct)Malware Roaming Mantis infected routers made by Logitec and Buffalo. |

# References(1/3)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