

[Commission Lays Out Plan For Trump To Tackle Cyberthreats](#)

(See also our attached memo on this)

By Allison Grande

Law360, New York (December 2, 2016, 10:07 PM EST) -- A presidential committee tasked with developing a plan to strengthen the nation's cybersecurity urged the incoming administration Friday to take immediate action to safeguard information systems by encouraging the public and private sectors to expand their collaboration in combating cyberthreats and the risks posed by the internet of things.

In a wide-ranging report that spanned nearly 100 pages, the nonpartisan Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity, which President Barack Obama established in February as part of his \$19 billion cybersecurity national action plan, delivered its highly anticipated recommendations for the steps the government, private sector and the nation as a whole can take over the next decade to bolster cybersecurity.

The report focused heavily on the urgency with which the issue needs to be addressed, with the 12-member commission — led by former national security adviser and O'Melveny & Myers LLP partner Tom Donilon and former IBM CEO Sam Palmisano — calling on President-elect Donald Trump to execute a host of measures to enhance cybersecurity within the first 100 days of his administration.

"When President Obama charged this Commission with developing recommendations for enhancing national cybersecurity, he conveyed an extreme sense of urgency — a sentiment with which this Commission agrees," the report says. "It is critical that the next President and his Administration and Congress begin immediately to tackle each one of the issues raised in this report. The Commission considers this report a direct memo to the next President."

The report outlines six major imperatives, which together contain a total of 16 recommendations and 53 associated action items. The imperatives include fortifying the nation's infrastructure and digital networks, accelerating investments in digital security initiatives and the growth of cybersecurity workforce capabilities, preparing consumers to thrive in the digital age, better equipping the government to function securely, and ensuring an open and competitive global digital economy.

To achieve these objectives, the commission recommends that the public and private sector collaborate to create a "roadmap" for securing networks against cyberattacks and to "rapidly and purposefully" improve the security of the growing web of connected devices known as the internet of things. The panel also says that the government should extend additional incentives to companies that have implemented cyber risk management principles and demonstrate collaborative engagement; and that an independent organization develop the equivalent of a cybersecurity "nutritional label"

for technology products and services.

The report also pushes the new president to initiate a national cybersecurity workforce program to train 100,000 new cybersecurity practitioners by 2020, to establish a program to consolidate all civilian agencies' network connections and those of "appropriate government contractors" into a single consolidated network and to appoint within his first 180 days in office an Ambassador for Cybersecurity to lead U.S. engagement with the international community on cybersecurity strategies, standards, and practices.

"It is important that the next Administration prepare, in short order, a cohesive, thorough plan for implementing these recommendations, building on the specific action items identified in this report," the commission wrote, adding that the private sector "should be consulted and involved in preparing this plan" and that, importantly, the Trump administration "must increase funding for cybersecurity across the federal government" to help meet these goals

The commission, which included executives from MasterCard and Uber, added that the plan developed by the executive branch should focus not only on actions, but on outcomes.

"Results matter, and simply taking action is not nearly enough," the report said. "Worse yet, focusing solely on actions can create the illusion of meaningful progress and impacts when little has actually changed."

In a statement, President Obama praised the commission for its "thoughtful and pragmatic" recommendations and expressed confidence that implementation of the suggestions outlined in the report would better equip the world, economy and critical infrastructure to thrive in the coming years.

He also touted the series of actions that his own administration has taken in recent years that are in line with the commission's recommendations to help combat cyberattacks, including giving a significant budget boost to cybersecurity initiatives for the 2017 fiscal year, encouraging the increased sharing of cyberthreat information, securing agreements from countries such as China to oppose cyber-enabled theft of business secrets for commercial gain and creating the first-ever federal chief information security officer.

"In total, the Commission's recommendations affirm the course that this Administration has laid out, but make clear that there is much more to do and the next Administration, Congress, the private sector, and the general public need to build on this progress," the president said, adding that he has asked the commission to brief the president-elect's transition team "at their earliest opportunity" and that Congress needs to act to fully fund cybersecurity initiatives before it adjourns for the year.

"We have the opportunity to change the balance further in our favor in cyberspace — but only if we take additional bold action to do so," the president continued. "Now it is time for the next Administration to take up this charge and ensure that cyberspace can continue to be the driver for prosperity, innovation, and change — both in the United States and around the world."

--Editing by Jill Coffey.