The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's

2017 Cybersecurity Conference

Federal Reserve
Bank of Boston™

Opening Remarks

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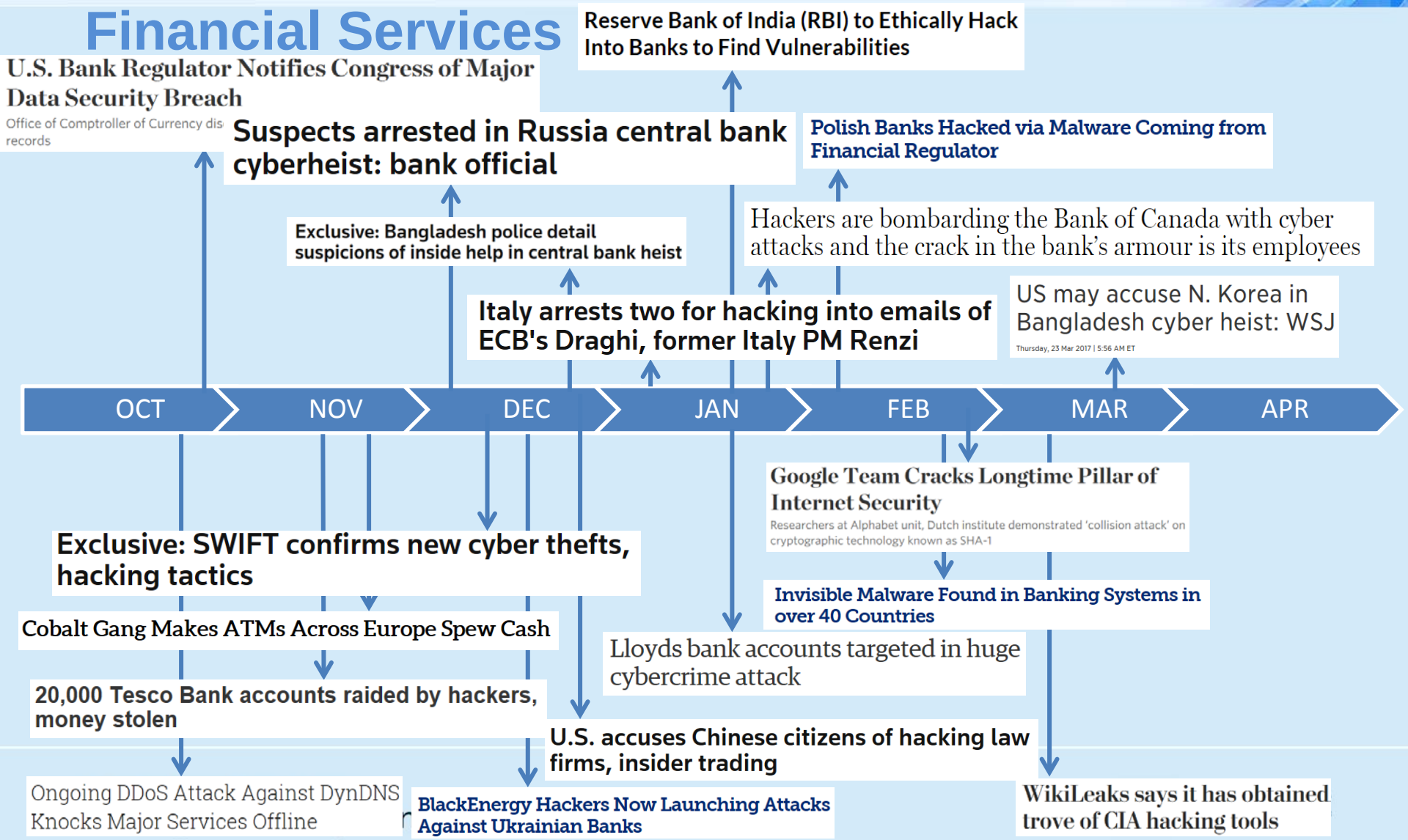
High Profile, High Intensity Cyber Attacks Increasing Impact on Central Banks and Financial Services



High Profile – High Intensity Illustrative Cases

SWIFT Network

- February 2016 – Instructions to transfer $951 million from Bangladesh Central Bank from an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York via the SWIFT network. $101 million was transferred before being stopped.
- Confirmed reports of Banco del Austro (Ecuador), commercial banks in Ukraine, Vietnam and potentially dozens more.

Distributed Denial of Service Attacks (DDoS)

- Large number of computers, under the control of an adversary, overwhelm a computer, website or application.
  - 2013 - large scale attacks impact the operations of a number of large banks.
  - 2014 to 2016 - DDoS mitigation services become mainstream minimizing the impact.
  - September 2016 - Mirai Malware – 1,000 times more powerful.

Ransomware

- Impact: 40% of businesses impacted by ransomware (30% lost revenue as a result, 20% had to cease business operations)
- Cost (60% of ransomware attacks demanded over $1,000; 20% over $10,000; 1% over $150,000)
- Protection (96% of organizations are not confident they can stop malware; 79% of organizations are not confident in their backups)