

# Konnech President Eugene Yu arrested in Los Angeles County

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From Christine Brim <christinebrim@protonmail.com>

To Udeshi, Ravi K<Ravi.Udeshi@fairfaxcounty.gov>, Spicer, Eric<Eric.Spicer@fairfaxcounty.gov>, Henzel, Christopher<Christopher.Henzel@fairfaxcounty.gov>, Andi Bayer<apmjt.bayer@verizon.net>, Chairman<chairman@fairfaxgop.org>, Chris Marston<chris@virginia.gop>, Jeffrey K. Shapiro<JShapiro@hpm.com>, Laurie Moore<moore.laurie@gmail.com>

Date Tuesday, October 4th, 2022 at 9:32 PM

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Greetings!

LA County just announced the arrest of Konnech President Eugene Yu.

<https://da.lacounty.gov/media/news/head-election-worker-management-company-arrested-connection-theft-personal-data>

The site takes a while to load - either lots of people are visiting it or it's undergoing a DDOS attack periodically, or both.

Several Virginia counties use the Konnech PollChief application - Fairfax, PWC, Loudoun, and others.

Several risks are still present due to the disclosure of the names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of the Election Officers and any other staff listed in Poll Chief since it was introduced in Fairfax in 2016. If the Pollchief Asset Management System was used in Fairfax, that introduced additional risk.

The fact that these individual's PPI such as SSN and full DOB are not included in Poll Chief is helpful but from a cyber security perspective largely irrelevant, because the primary cybersecurity threat is the identification of potential targets for insider threats.

A summary of insider threats is here, at the Virginia Information Technology Agency website: <https://www.vita.virginia.gov/information-security/awareness/information-security-tips/september-2021.html>

Michael Watson, CISO at VITA, is a capable expert and has spoken about insider threats as his greatest concern in cyber security. His LinkedIn page is here if you would like to contact him: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/watsonmj/>

I've pasted the content below for your convenience.

We had previously sent the Registrar and Electoral Board a memo about Konnech on September 6, and a later email with the links (and a saved cached file) of the public Konnech statement in which Konnech admitted they had used software engineering staff in China. I had found that Konnech statement because it was linked from an NPR article about Konnech, which still links to it although Konnech later removed the statement from their website.

(<https://www.npr.org/2022/09/20/1123898736/prominent-election-deniers-are-facing-growing-legal-trouble>, search on "election misinformation advisory").

Unexpectedly, after we sent your office the cached version which is attached below as a pdf, it was removed from cachedview.com as well.

I am attaching both again, just for reference.

Here is the article about today's arrest of the Konnech President Eugene Yu:

### **October 4, 2022: Head of Election Worker Management Company Arrested in Connection with Theft of Personal Data**

#### **Contact:**

Media Relations Division

(213) 257-2000

[Media@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:Media@da.lacounty.gov)

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced today that an executive with a Michigan-based company responsible for the software used in managing Los Angeles County election poll workers has been arrested as part of an investigation into the possible theft of personal identifying information of those workers.

"I want to thank my prosecutors and investigators for their commitment to eliminating cyber intrusions against government entities and local businesses," District Attorney Gascón said.

"Data breaches are an ongoing threat to our digital way of life. When we entrust a company to hold our confidential data, they must be willing and able to protect our personal identifying information from theft. Otherwise, we are all victims.

This investigation is concerned solely with the personal identifying information of election workers. In this case, the alleged conduct had no impact on the tabulation of votes and did not alter election results. But security in all aspects of any election is essential so that we all have full faith in the integrity of the election process."

Earlier today, Konnech Corporation Chief Executive Officer Eugene Yu was taken into custody on suspicion of theft of personal identifying information by investigators from the District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation with assistance from the Meridian Township Police Department in Michigan. In addition, hard drives and other digital evidence were seized by LADA investigators.

The District Attorney's Office is seeking Yu's extradition to Los Angeles.

Konnech distributes and sells its proprietary PollChief software, which is an election worker management system that was utilized by the county in the last California election. The software assists with poll worker assignments,

communications and payroll. PollChief requires that workers submit personal identifying information, which is retained by the Konnech.

Under its \$2.9 million, five-year contract with the county, Konnech was supposed to securely maintain the data and that only United States citizens and permanent residents have access to it.

District Attorney investigators found that in contradiction to the contract, information was stored on servers in the People's Republic of China.

The East Lansing Police Department and Ingham County Sheriff's Office in Michigan also assisted in the investigation.

Under the circumstances, we strongly recommend that Fairfax take steps to stop using the Konnech software - as we previously recommended.

Thanks!

Regards,

Christine Brim

Fairfax County Republican Committee Election Integrity Working Group

202-379-6776

Christinebrim@protonmail.com

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

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**2.02 MB** 2 files attached

KONNECH MEMO 9-6-2022.pdf 1.93 MB

KONNECH WEBCACHE STATEMENT.pdf 88.57 KB