



Supply Chain Operations & Technologies
 Supply Chain Vendor Compliance
 Fraud Detection & Reduction
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Since January 1996

The Miami Herald newspaper has been chock-full of stories lately with regards to various frauds:

- Three mayors from Miami-Dade county cities were arrested by the FBI in August for allegedly committing various frauds.
- Federal officials have placed a ban on new home health agencies in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties from enrolling in Medicare and Medicaid. Given Miami-Dade county's national ranking as the Medicare fraud "hot spot", the six-month suspension is an attempt to put fraudsters out of business, even before they start.
- Phishing attacks – those real-looking e-mails encouraging you to click a link and provide sensitive information (e.g. a user identifier and password) or download a data file to track a package (that data file is actually a virus) from companies who you have heard of but have probably not done business with lately (if at all, so why would you click those links or download those files?) – are on the rise, and the attacks are getting more intense. Some viruses lock your computers and hold your files hostage, requiring ransom payment for the unlock code, as if a one-time payment is all it will take. Despite common sense to the contrary, an amazing number of Americans fall prey to these pranksters every day.
- From the Florida House Speaker to the former Florida Education Commissioner, thank goodness for the investigative journalists at our tried-and-true newspapers for uncovering more questionable backgrounds about our elected officials and their ties to big-money campaign contributors and private-sector beneficiaries of public tax dollars when the best interest may have been elsewhere. Let me remind everyone of three important considerations when deciding whether you are in a proper position to affect an outcome: (a) just because something is legal to do does not automatically mean it is ethical to do; (b) full disclosure means just that: fully disclose any and all information; (c) relative distance means that if there is any whiff of a lack of impartiality in your ability to make a decision, step away from the decision-making process.

As I gear up for my next international speaking engagement I shall again have the opportunity to inform my distinguished global audience that I have not been invited from the United States of America to tell them what they are doing wrong in their respective countries regarding fraud; rather, I am there to tell them what the number one fraudster country is doing wrong and what lessons they can learn from the troubles we cause ourselves. Gaps in processes and software systems, political roadblocks, perpetuation of political cronyism in the face of ethical violations, billions of taxpayer dollars wasted on not just the frauds but in fighting the frauds themselves.

Story upon story from my local newspaper, something I have always started my day with, even as a child when I was first learning how to read. They may be products of a near bygone era, but I fully agree with Miami Herald Opinion columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. in his August 11, 2013 column with regards to Jeff Bezos' purchase of The Washington Post. As Mr. Pitts so aptly writes, when a news story is first uncovered – when the facts are first discovered – it is more often than not by the investigative journalists at a newspaper, not by local news, cable news, or a blogger. (National news won't cover the local and state issues that a newspaper will for the most part.) And it is very unnerving to me that it is these same investigative institutions that are at the greatest risk of crumbling in the digital and short-attention-span age. As the last bastions of truth the investigative journalist is also sometimes the last person to hold those in power to a higher power: public opinion.

So, if you have not done so in a while, go out and buy a newspaper and really read it. You'll



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probably be surprised – and saddened – by what’s going on in the local world around you. But hopefully you’ll want to read more the next day and the next day and the day after that.

Thank you.

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Look for the book --> <http://www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781409407324>

