Transcript: "A Message from IG Horowitz: The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Implementation of Its Next Generation Cyber Initiative" – July 2015

Hello. My name is Michael Horowitz, and I am the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Cybersecurity is an issue of major importance for our country, and one that the OIG has identified for years as among the DOJ's top management challenges. The FBI has reported that the frequency and impact of cyberattacks on both private sector and government computers has increased dramatically in the last decade.

Today, we released a report examining the FBI's Next Generation Cyber Initiative. The FBI launched this initiative in 2012, shortly after we issued a report on the FBI's ability to address the cyber intrusion threat. Through its Next Gen initiative, the FBI has devoted more than 300 million dollars, and more than 1,300 full-time positions, to its goal of improving how it addresses cybersecurity threats to both government and private computer networks.

Our audit found that the FBI's initiative has made considerable progress toward this cybersecurity goal, but that there are still some areas where the FBI needs to improve. We found that the FBI has strengthened the National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force, which helps to coordinate information about cyber threats among 19 domestic and international agencies. And, the FBI has improved the training it provides FBI employees to improve their awareness and capabilities regarding cyber intrusions.

However, we found that the FBI faces challenges when competing with the private sector to hire and retain highly qualified cybersecurity personnel, including computer scientists. In fact, some of the FBI's field offices did not have a computer scientist assigned to their local Cyber Task Forces. The FBI has also had difficulty attracting state and local law enforcement agencies to participate in these local Cyber Task Forces. And, the FBI continues to face challenges relating to information sharing with private sector entities, in part because of concerns in the private sector about privacy and the security of sensitive information it shares with the government.

Our audit report makes eight recommendations to assist the FBI in achieving the goals of its Next Gen Cyber Initiative and in addressing the growing threat of cyber intrusions. I invite you to read the full report on our website, oig.justice.gov.

Thank you for joining us today and for your interest in the OIG's work.