

# Cybercrime Digest

Bi-weekly update and global outlook by the  
Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC)

1-15 May 2017

Source: Council of  
Europe

## Tonga joins the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime

Date: 9 May 2017

"The Kingdom of Tonga has today acceded to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime to become the 55th Party to this treaty which allows for effective international co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence. "Tonga's accession to the Budapest Convention is further evidence of the global reach of this treaty. The efforts by Tonga to bring domestic legislation in line with the Convention and to strengthen criminal justice capacities are setting an example for the Pacific Island region," said Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe at her meeting with the delegation from Tonga." [READ MORE](#)

Source: Reuters

## Global unprecedented cyber attack hits hospitals, public services and companies in 150 countries

Date: 14 May 2017

"Friday's cyber attack hit 200,000 victims in at least 150 countries and that number could grow when people return to work on Monday, the head of the European Union's police agency said on Sunday. Cyber security experts say the spread of the virus dubbed WannaCry - "ransomware" which locked up computers in car factories, hospitals, shops and schools in several countries - has slowed, but that any respite might be brief. Europol Director Rob Wainwright told ITV's Peston on Sunday program the attack was unique in that the ransomware was used in combination with "a worm functionality" so the infection spread automatically. "The global reach is unprecedented. The latest count is over 200,000 victims in at least 150 countries, and those victims, many of those will be businesses, including large corporations," he said." [READ MORE](#)

### RELATED ARTICLES

Europol, [Wannacry Ransomware: recent cyber-attack](#), 13 May 2017

New York Times, [How to Catch Hackers?](#) 14 may 2017

Krebs on Security, [U.K. Hospitals Hit in Widespread Ransomware Attack](#), 12 May 2017;  
[Microsoft issues WanaCrypt Patch for Windows 8, XP](#), 13 May 2017

Europe 1, [Ce que l'on sait de la cyberattaque en cours](#), 13 May 2017

Source: Europol

## Major online child sexual abuse operation leads to 368 arrests in Europe

Date: 5 May 2017

"Earlier this week, the lead administrator of Playpen, one of the world's largest child sexual abuse websites with more than 150 000 users around the world, was convicted to serve 30 years in prison in the United States. The takedown of Playpen led to Operation Pacifier, one of the largest and most complex investigations ever undertaken in this field. So far, in Europe alone, 368 suspected child sex abusers have been arrested or convicted. Playpen was a website on the Darknet. [...] In December 2014, the FBI seized a copy of the website and arrested Playpen's three administrators. The lead administrator was sentenced to 30 years in prison earlier this week in North Carolina; the two others were each convicted to 20 years imprisonment." [READ MORE](#)

Source: Europol

## EU forensic experts call for action on new Cyber Investigation Standard

Date: 12 May 2017

"Under the umbrella of Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), a number of the EU's leading digital forensic experts have called for the adoption of the Cyber-investigation Analysis Standard Expression (CASE) as a standard digital forensic format at a meeting hosted at the Agency's headquarters in The Hague on 11 and 12 May 2017. [...] On the occasion of the expert meeting, EC3's Forensic Lab was able to convince the vast majority of the market leaders to adopt this open-source data format for forensics. This event is a game changer in the specialised field of forensic analysis, as key laboratories and services have repeatedly called for the implementation of such a standard in the past." [READ MORE](#)

Source: The Hacker News

## An Army of Thousands of Hacked Servers Found Mining Cryptocurrencies

Date: 4 May 2017

"A new botnet consisting of more than 15,000 compromised servers has been used to mine various cryptocurrencies, earning its master around \$25,000 per month. Mining cryptocurrencies can be a costly investment, as it requires an enormous amount of computing power, but cybercriminals have found an easy money-making solution. Dubbed BondNet, the botnet was first spotted in December 2016. [...] Cybercriminals are currently using BondNet for mining cryptocurrencies — primarily Monero, but also ByteCoin, RieCoin, and ZCash — but they could easily take full control of compromised servers for malicious purposes, like mounting Mirai-style DDoS attacks." [READ MORE](#)

Source: Interpol

## Strengthening Nordic law enforcement capacity to combat criminal use of the Darknet

Date: 12 May 2017

"Some 20 participants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden are taking part in the five-day (8 – 12 May) training organized by INTERPOL in cooperation with the Norwegian National Police Directorate and the Digital Forensics Group at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology - Centre for Cyber and Information Security (CCIS). This immersive course sees the trainees take part in a Dark Market Serious Game, playing various roles (buyers, sellers, administrators, exchange operators and law enforcement), learning about Tor technology and identifying potential avenues for investigation using a Torlab infrastructure." [READ MORE](#)

Source: Reuters

## Germany sees rise in cybercrime, but reporting rates still low

Date: 3 May 2017

"Cybercrime is expanding at a rapid rate in Germany, one of the most digitally advanced countries in the world, but the vast majority of attacks against individuals and companies are not reported, government and industry executives said on Wednesday. Markus Koths, head of the cyber crime unit at the German Federal Crime Office, told a conference that numbers of cybercrimes reported in 2016 nearly doubled to over 82,000, resulting in damages of over 51 million euros (\$55.7 million). But he said that number likely represented just a tenth of all such crimes, which some industry groups had said could range into the millions with damage estimates as high as 22.4 billion euros." [READ MORE](#)

Source: *Belga*

## Le gouvernement belge va mettre en place un callcenter contre la cybercriminalité

Date: 13 May 2017

"Le gouvernement va mettre en place un callcenter pour lutter contre la cybercriminalité qui sera accessible jour et nuit, a fait savoir samedi le ministre de l'Agenda numérique, Alexander de Croo au micro de la VRT. Un outil numérique servant à l'analyse des risques de cyberattaques sera également disponible pour les services publics." [READ MORE](#)

---

Source: *IT World Canada*

## Don't change lawful access rules, Parliamentary committee recommends in Canada

Date: 4 May 2017

"The government shouldn't change the current lawful access regime that limits the ability of police to get at telecom subscriber information and encrypted data unless they have a warrant. The recommendation came this week from the House of Commons' public safety and national security committee as part of a broad review of the country's national security framework." [READ MORE](#)

---

Source: *Camer*

## Des sites d'information et Facebook suspendus depuis 4 ans en Guinée équatoriale

Date: 3 May 2017

"L'accès à certains sites d'information, d'opinion et de réseaux sociaux dont Facebook est toujours interdit en Guinée équatoriale depuis près de 4 ans, constate l'AFP mercredi, journée internationale de la liberté de la presse. Un virus informatique, selon les autorités équato-guinéennes, aurait été responsable de ces blocages sélectifs, survenus pour la plupart le 10 mai 2013, peu de temps après l'annonce d'une marche d'étudiants et à 16 jours d'élections législatives." [READ MORE](#)

---

Source: *Geneva Center for Security Policy*

## Cybersecurity Challenges in the Middle East

Date: 3 May 2017

"Countries in the Middle East are increasingly investing in information and communication technologies. Social infrastructure, the financial sector, government services, schools, and hospitals in the region are now irreversibly dependent on interconnectivity and the Internet. [...] This environment raises questions about the trends in cyberwarfare and offensive cyber tactics, the appropriateness of existing international humanitarian laws on the use of force in cyberspace, and the concomitant obligations of states and international institutions in managing all of this." [READ MORE](#)

---

Source: *IT Web Africa*

## Zambia to force ISPs to help with cybercrime

Date: 4 May 2017

"Zambia's government has tabled several Bills it says are aimed at curbing cybercrime and strengthening digital security within the telecom sector. However, a source within the Ministry of Communications and Transport has said the data protection Bill will be used to force ISPs to help authorities. "Through the bill, the government will propose to parliament to adjust and update information and Communications Technology Act No. 15 of 2009 to strengthen the regulatory mandate of the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) in order to provide the institution with clear enforcement capabilities for execution of statutory rules and procedures outlined in the Act," Mushimba said." [READ MORE](#)

---

Source: *Mondaq*

## Argentina: Draft Bill Makes Possession Of Child Pornography A Crime

Date: 9 May 2017

"Recently, Senators Juan Manuel Abal Medina and Julio Cobos filed a draft bill which would amend the Argentine Criminal Code and make the possession of child pornography a criminal offense (the "Draft Bill"). Currently, Section 128 of the Argentine Criminal Code punishes the production and distribution of child pornography. It only punishes the possession of child pornography when there is an unequivocal intent to distribute or market it. The Draft Bill would amend Section 128 of the Criminal Code, making the possession of child pornography punishable regardless of intent. The preamble of the Draft Bill makes reference to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe, both of which punish the possession of child pornography itself." [READ MORE](#)

Source: *Caribbean News Now*

## Crafting the national cyber security strategy in Belize

Date: 13 May 2017

"The country's first-ever national cybersecurity symposium took place in Belize City from April 24 to 28. [...] The week culminated in the formation of a multisectoral task force charged with crafting a national cyber security strategy, working with a wide cross-section of society and with the declared support of top-tier officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Patrick Faber, Chief Justice Kenneth Benjamin and Attorney General Michael Peyrefitte." [READ MORE](#)

### RELATED ARTICLES

Curacao Chronicle, [Caribbean Courts Need To Be Better Prepared To Judge Cybercrimes](#), 8 May 2017

Source: *Associated Press*

## Child Webcam Sex Bust Reveals Rising Abuse

Date: 9 May 2017

"The relatively new crime of webcam sex tourism is spreading rapidly, with new digital technologies sparking what the United Nations calls an "alarming growth of new forms of child sexual exploitation online." The FBI says it's epidemic, and that at any given moment, 750,000 child predators are online. Almost every case stems from the Philippines, where good English speakers, increased internet connections and widespread international cash transfer systems combine with widespread poverty and easy access to vulnerable kids. There have been as many as three busts a week there this spring." [READ MORE](#)

### RELATED ARTICLES

Ass. Press, [Philippines Makes More Child Cybersex Crime Arrests](#), 12 May 2017

Source: *Camer*

## Cameroun: les magistrats de la Cour d'Appel du littoral à l'école de la lutte contre la cybercriminalité

Date: 5 May 2017

"Dans sa mission de sécurisation du cyberspace Camerounais, L'Agence Nationale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (ANTIC) organise à Douala un séminaire de sensibilisation sur la cybercriminalité à Douala. Il s'agit d'édifier les magistrats sur les diverses manifestations singulières et non classiques des infractions cybernétiques." [READ MORE](#)

---

## Latest reports

- US National Intelligence, [Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community](#), 11 May 2017
- G7, [COMMUNIQUÉ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Banks' Governors Meeting](#), 13 May 2017
- UK Houses of Parliament, [Cyber Security of UK Infrastructure](#), May 2017
- FBI, [Business E-mail Compromise, e-mail account compromise – The 5 billion dollar scam](#), 4 May 2017
- European Scientific Journal, [Law Enforcement and Investigation of Cybercrime in Albania](#), Apr 2017
- RSIS Commentary, [China's Cybersecurity Policy: Security or Protectionism?](#), 28 Apr 2017
- Comparitech, [Cyber security and internet freedom statistics by country](#), 13 Feb 2017
- NTTSecurity, [Global Threat Intelligence Report 2017](#), May 2027
- Neustar, [Worldwide DDoS Attacks & Cyber Insights Research Report](#), May 2017

## Upcoming events

- 15-16 May 2017, C-PROC, Bucharest, Romania – Brainstorming meeting in Bucharest, Romania, for the general update of the basic and advanced training materials for judges, prosecutors and public defenders, [GLACY+](#)
- 17-19 May 2017, Kyiv, Ukraine – Public hearings of the legal amendments/memorandum concept, [EAP III](#)
- 22-23 May 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina – Country visit to assess the guidelines to prevent and detect/identify online crime proceeds, [iPROCEEDS](#)
- 22-26 May 2017, Rabat, Morocco – Introductory ToT on cybercrime and electronic evidence for judges and prosecutors, [GLACY+](#)
- 22-26 May 2017, Koforidua (Eastern Region), Ghana – Support to the national delivery of the Introductory Course on cybercrime and electronic evidence for prosecutors, [GLACY+](#)
- 23-26 May 2017, Nuku'Alofa, Tonga – Regional Workshop on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence for Prosecutors of PILON Network and Advice on the streamlining of procedures for mutual legal assistance related to cybercrime and electronic evidence, [GLACY+](#)
- 25-26 May 2017, Ankara, Turkey – Country visit to assess the guidelines to prevent and detect/identify online crime proceeds, [iPROCEEDS](#)
- 31 May – 1 June 2017, Brussels, Belgium - GFCE Annual Meeting 2017, [GLACY+](#)

The Cybercrime Digest appears bi-weekly. News are selected by relevance to the current areas of interest to C-PROC and do not represent official positions of the Council of Europe. You receive this digest as you have taken part in Council of Europe activities on cybercrime. It is not intended for general publication.

For any additional information, contributions, subscriptions or removal from this distribution list, please contact: [cybercrime@coe.int](mailto:cybercrime@coe.int)

[www.coe.int/cybercrime](http://www.coe.int/cybercrime)

---

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE