

Cybercrime Digest

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

16-31 December 2017

Source: Europol

Five arrested for spreading ransomware throughout Europe and US

Date: 20 Dec 2017

“Romanian authorities have arrested three individuals who are suspected of infecting computer systems by spreading the CTB-Locker (Curve-Tor-Bitcoin Locker) malware - a form of file-encrypting ransomware. Two other suspects from the same criminal group were arrested in Bucharest in a parallel ransomware investigation linked to the US. During this law enforcement operation called "Bakovia", six houses were searched in Romania as a result of a joint investigation carried out by the Romanian Police (Service for Combating Cybercrime), the Romanian and Dutch public prosecutor's office, the Dutch National Police, the UK's National Crime Agency, the US FBI with the support of Europol's European Cybercrime Centre and the Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce. As a result of the searches in Romania, investigators seized a significant amount of hard drives, laptops, external storage devices, cryptocurrency mining devices and numerous documents. The criminal group is being prosecuted for unauthorised computer access, serious hindering of a computer system, misuse of devices with the intent of committing cybercrimes and blackmail.” [READ MORE](#)

Source: Krebs On Security

Skyrocketing Bitcoin Fees Hit Carders in Wallet

Date: 26 Dec 2017

“Critics of unregulated virtual currencies like Bitcoin have long argued that the core utility of these payment systems lies in facilitating illicit commerce, such as buying drugs or stolen credit cards and identities. But recent spikes in the price of Bitcoin — and the fees associated with moving funds into and out of it — have conspired to make Bitcoin a less useful and desirable payment method for many crooks engaged in these activities. [...] As a result, several major underground markets that traffic in stolen digital goods are now urging customers to deposit funds in alternative virtual currencies, such as Litecoin. Those who continue to pay for these commodities in Bitcoin not only face far higher fees, but also are held to higher minimum deposit amounts.” [READ MORE](#)

RELATED ARTICLES

Bloomberg, [Germany Joins French-led Moves to Regulate Bitcoin at G-20 Level](#), 18 Dec 2017

Source: EU Neighbors

CyberSouth conducts an assessment visit to Algeria

Date: 21 Dec 2017

“Within the framework of CyberSouth, a joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe, an assessment visit was conducted in Algeria during 10-14 December in order to meet with competent authorities responsible for addressing cybercrime and e-evidence issues in the field of criminal justice. [...] At the end of the assessment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a briefing session, which marked the occasion to summarize the proposals expressed by Algerian authorities and to agree on the path forward.” [READ MORE](#)

Source: *Europol*

Ten child victims of sexual abuse identified thanks to international taskforce at Europol

Date: 22 Dec 2017

"Over the course of the last two weeks, Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) hosted at its headquarters the 4th Victim Identification Taskforce where 25 experts from 16 countries and 21 law enforcement agencies gathered to identify the children victim of sexual exploitation and abuse. Thanks to their joint efforts, 10 offenders and victims were localised in 9 different countries. In total, during the previous editions, more than 50 victims in 14 different countries have been identified and safeguarded from their abusers. On a daily basis, law enforcement comes across millions of images and videos of children being sexually abused. The vast majority of them are found online: in chatrooms, peer-to-peer networks, social media applications and dedicated websites and forums both on the open internet and on the Darknet." [READ MORE](#)

Source: *Domain Incite*

How WHOIS could survive new EU privacy law

Date: 29 Dec 2017

"Lawyers for ICANN reckon the current public system "could continue to exist in some form" after new European Union privacy laws kick in next May, according to advice published shortly before Christmas. [...] Hamilton, the Swedish law firm hired by ICANN to probe the impact of the General Data Protection Regulation, seems to be mellowing on its recommendation that Whois access be permanently "layered" according to who wants to access registration records. Now, it's saying that layered Whois access could merely be a "temporary solution" to protect the industry from fines and litigation until ICANN negotiates a permanent peace treaty with EU privacy regulators that would have less impact on current Whois users." [READ MORE](#)

Source: *CNET*

Massive leak exposes data on 123 million US households

Date: 19 Dec 2017

"Researchers revealed Tuesday that earlier this year they discovered a massive database -- containing information on more than 123 million American households -- that was sitting unsecured on the internet. The cloud-based data repository from marketing analytics company Alteryx exposed a wide range of personal details about virtually every American household, according to researchers at cybersecurity company UpGuard. The leak put consumers at risk for a range of nefarious activities, from spamming to identity theft, the researchers warned. Though no names were exposed, the data set included 248 different data fields covering a wide variety of specific personal information, including address, age, gender, education, occupation and marital status. Other fields included mortgage and financial information, phone numbers and the number of children in the household." [READ MORE](#)

Source: *AllAfrica*

Tanzania: Personal Data Protection Law On Horizon

Date: 21 Dec 2017

"The government is in the process of drafting a personal data protection law that it says wasn't intended to curb press freedom and freedom of expression but instead consolidate people's rights. Works, Transport and Communication Permanent Secretary, Dr Mary Sassabo, said here this week during a public hearing on the proposed Personal Data Protection Act, 2018, that it intends to empower people with the right of personal identity "but will require all to keep their data." [READ MORE](#)

Source: Agence de
Presse Africaine

Cameroun : le gouvernement en guerre contre les «dérives» sur les réseaux sociaux

Date: 27 Dec 2017

“Dans une circulaire dont APA a obtenu copie samedi, adressée au procureur général près la cour d’appel du Nord, et aux procureurs généraux près les cours d’appels le secrétaire général du ministère de la Justice, Fonkwe Joseph Fongang, engage ainsi la «lutte contre l’impunité des actes commis au travers des réseaux sociaux au Cameroun». [...] Selon la loi du pays relative à la cybersécurité et la cybercriminalité, les fournisseurs de contenus des réseaux de communications électroniques et systèmes d’information ont l’obligation de mettre en place des filtres pour faire face aux atteintes préjudiciables aux données personnelles et à la vie privée des utilisateurs.” [READ MORE](#)

RELATED ARTICLES

La Tribune Afrique, [Le Cameroun a investi 14 milliards pour sécuriser son cyberspace entre 2016-2017](#), 17 Dec 2017

Source:
International
Middle East Media
Center

Rights Organizations Urge Palestinian Authority to Amend Cyber-crime Legislation

Date: 20 Dec 2017

“Amnesty International, Avaaz, Human Rights Watch, and 7amleh: The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media said in a joint letter to Secretary General of the Council of Ministers Salah Alayan, Palestinian authorities should amend the cyber-crime law to bring it in line with their international legal obligations. The Justice Ministry has proposed striking some repressive provisions in the 2017 law in response to concerns from civil society groups, but left in place others that would allow disproportionate and arbitrary restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, privacy, and protection of data.” [READ MORE](#)

Source: Dawn

Pakistan, cabinet brings blasphemy, pornography under ambit of cybercrime law

Date: 27 Dec 2017

“The federal cabinet on Tuesday approved an amendment to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), 2016, aimed at bringing blasphemy and pornography within the ambit of the cybercrime law. The issue of offences relating to blasphemy was recently taken up by the Islamabad High Court during the hearing of a petition filed against alleged uploading of objectionable material on social media. Additional Attorney General Afnan Karim Kundi had last week informed the court that the federal government was amending Peca to include blasphemy and pornography as scheduled offences in the cybercrime law.” [READ MORE](#)

Source: Reuters

Vietnam unveils 10,000-strong cyber unit to combat 'wrong views'

Date: 26 Dec 2017

“Vietnam has unveiled a new, 10,000-strong military cyber warfare unit to counter “wrong” views on the Internet, media reported, amid a widening crackdown on critics of the one-party state. The cyber unit, named Force 47, is already in operation in several sectors, Tuoi Tre newspaper quoted Lieutenant General Nguyen Trong Nghia, deputy head of the military’s political department, as saying at a conference of the Central Propaganda Department on Monday in Ho Chi Minh City.” [READ MORE](#)

Source: Prensa
Latina

Chinese justice processed more than 22,000 people for Cybercrime

Date: 28 Dec 2017

"Chinese justice reported today that it prosecuted more than 22,000 individuals between January and September who have stolen data on the Internet and committed fraud, which will entail additional efforts to eradicate those evils. A statement from the Supreme People's Procuratorate indicated that these people come from all over the country and were linked to 8,257 cases of privacy violations on the web and other forms of telecommunications, and hacking systems." [READ MORE](#)

Source: Telemetro

Panama, Ministerio Publico informa que Proyecto de Ley sobre Cibercrimen será presentado en enero 2018

Date: 27 Dec 2017

"El Ministerio Público informó este miércoles que ya tiene listo el Proyecto de Ley sobre Cibercrimen y que el mismo será presentado el próximo mes de enero de 2018, ante la Asamblea Nacional. Durante un conversatorio desarrollado hoy, la Fiscal Aída Castro, informó que "el Proyecto de Ley sobre Cibercrimen contiene nuevas propuestas y modificaciones que son requeridas con carácter de urgencia, en virtud que en la actualidad se carece de estos tipos penales que exige la gran demanda de nuevas conductas". Agregó que el proyecto fue desarrollado con diversas entidades y organismos internacionales, asegurando que el Ministerio Público respeta la libertad de expresión y de prensa. En tanto el Fiscal Igor Blanco, indicó que "a nivel internacional existen herramientas jurídicas para la persecución de los delitos informáticos como organismos especializados para su investigación, así se puede mencionar el Convenio de Budapest". [READ MORE](#)

Source: InfoBAE

"La Justicia argentina no está preparada para combatir ciberdelitos pero estamos avanzando"

Date: 23 Dec 2017

"Desde hace 20 años, los seres humanos tenemos dos vidas: una real, en un mundo físico en el que todo es tangible e inseguro; y una vida virtual, que alimentamos a través de publicaciones e interacciones en internet y que muchas veces es tan o más insegura que la realidad analógica. Todo lo que navegamos, buscamos, publicamos y miramos queda registrado en algún lugar. Esas huellas electrónicas muchas veces pueden aportar pistas, datos o pruebas fundamentales para resolver casos judiciales. Marcos Salt es el coordinador del Programa Nacional Contra la Criminalidad Informática del Ministerio de Justicia y acaba de regresar de Estrasburgo, Francia, en donde presentó a la Argentina como país adherente a la Convención de Budapest, el primer tratado internacional sobre ciberdelincuencia que propone la cooperación mutua entre los países firmantes para obtener evidencia digital de usuarios, empresas y servidores que estén en otros países." [READ MORE](#)

Source:
Government
Technology

The Top 18 Security Predictions for 2018

Date: 21 Dec 2017

"What will happen in cyberspace in 2018? How will technology impact the real world over the next year? [...] Here's your annual security industry prediction roundup from the top cybersecurity experts, magazines, companies, analysts and more." [READ MORE](#)

Latest reports

- INTERPOL, [Online Safety Tips](#), December 2018
- Compagnie Européenne d'Intelligence Stratégique (CEIS), [Lawful access to data: the US v. Microsoft case, sovereignty in the cyber-space and European data protection](#), December 2017
- E. Balajanov, [Setting the minimum age of criminal responsibility for cybercrime](#), International Review of Law, Computers & Technology, 20 Dec 2017
- SC Media, [2017 Biggest Cybercrime Arrests](#), 22 Dec 2017
- B2C, [What to Expect in 2018: Online Security](#), 22 Dec 2017
- Facebook, [Transparency Report](#), December 2017

Upcoming events

- 15 January, Pristina, Kosovo* – Workshop of the working group to elaborate/improve guidelines and indicators for financial sector entities to prevent money laundering in the online environment, [iPROCEEDS](#)
- 15-18 January, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina – Case simulation exercise on cybercrime and financial investigations, [iPROCEEDS](#)

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.

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