

Police Service of Northern Ireland Cyber Crime Centre

12/03/2021 - Business Resources



This information sheet has been compiled by the Police Service of Northern Ireland Cyber Crime Centre and is intended to raise awareness of current cyber threats and available guidance. For more information, contact us at: cyberprotect@psni.pnn.police.uk

Introducing Police CyberAlarm

Alongside our regional counterparts across England and Wales, the PSNI Cyber Crime Centre are supporting Police CyberAlarm, a new 'FREE' service from the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC).

Police CyberAlarm is a free monitoring tool that acts like a "CCTV camera" monitoring the traffic seen by a member's connection to the internet. It will detect and provide regular reports on suspected malicious activity, empowering organisations to take action. The data collected by the system does not contain any content of the traffic.

As an additional service, Police CyberAlarm also offers a regular (and once again free) vulnerability assessment, designed to identify exploits your IP addresses or website may be vulnerable to.

While primarily aimed at supporting SMEs improve their understanding of current Internet threats they are facing, members of Police CyberAlarm will also help the PSNI Cyber Crime Centre develop a better understanding of the current threats facing organisations across all sectors in Northern Ireland.

In response to the recent Microsoft Exchange incident, new members signing up to Police CyberAlarm with the code 'MSEXZERO' will receive a scan for the MS Exchange vulnerability once they register.

Benefits of Police Cyber Alarm

Regular Reporting

Weekly or monthly reports detailing activity discovered on your internet facing devices and details of potential attacks for further investigation.

Intelligence Feeds

Intelligence feeds detailing the latest threats discovered, giving Member organisations the ability to update blacklists and strengthen security.

Vulnerability Scanning

These regular reports can help increase an organisations cyber security, helping protect from known suspicious activity.

For more information, check out Police CyberAlarm on [YouTube](#)

Cyber Threat Update

Microsoft Exchange Server Vulnerability

As reported widely across cyber security channels, Microsoft have disclosed a number of vulnerabilities that affect Exchange Server versions 2013, 2016, and 2019 (2010 is also impacted). Exchange Online is said not to be affected. In response, Microsoft have released a number of important patches, details of which can be found '[HERE](#)'

Further information on this important incident can be found on the [NCSC website](#)

Ransomware

Ransomware continues to pose a significant risk to organisations of all sizes across Northern Ireland, with phishing emails and compromised passwords a favoured method of entry.

As highlighted in a recent NCSC blog '[The rise of ransomware](#)', modern day ransomware can involve the threat to expose / sell stolen data and encryption often results from the attackers being in your network for weeks if not longer. [NCSC Ransomware Guidance](#)

To keep up to date with current threats we would encourage local organisations to follow the NCSC Weekly Threat Reports and consider membership of the [NCSC CiSP Platform](#)

Cyber Aware - Cyber Action Plan

CyberAware, the National Cyber Security Centres platform for advice on keeping safe online has launched 'Cyber Action Plan', a new service aimed at helping Micro Businesses (those with under ten employees) improve their cyber security.

This easy to use online tool asks a short series of questions on cyber basics (Passwords, Two Factor Authentication, Backups, Device Security and Software Updates) before providing a personalised list of actions to help improve your cyber security.

A new CyberAware leaflet outlining 6 actions Micro Businesses can take to protect themselves can be requested from cyberprotect@psni.pnn.police.uk or downloaded from the PSNI website by clicking '[HERE](#)'.

Useful websites

www.ncsc.gov.uk

www.cyberalarm.police.uk

www.nicybersecuritycentre.gov.uk

Twitter

@PSNIBelfast

@PolCyberAlarm

@NICyberSC