

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROF DATO' HUSIN URGES THAT SAFETY AND SECURITY ASPECTS OF INTERNET USERS NEED TO BE RE-EMPHASIZED

CYBER SECURITY SCENARIO IN MALAYSIA MID YEAR REVIEW 2012

A review of trends in computer security incidents in Malaysia based on incidents reported to Cyber999 Help Centre

(KOTA KINABALU) – Malaysia is determined to become a developed nation by 2020, which is only eight years away. ICT and security are among the key indicators of a developed nation, hence the importance of the role played by CyberSecurity Malaysia as the National cyber security specialist centre is pretty obvious.

CyberSecurity Malaysia, an agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) runs Cyber999 Help Centre as part of its emergency response services. Since 2001, the number of incidents reported to the Cyber999 Help Centre has been consistently increasing.

Today, the cyber security agency is in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah to conduct a media conference with the objective of keeping the media up-to-date on the current trends and scenario with regards to cyber security threats and dangers in Malaysia. The presentation is based on the comparative analysis of Cyber999 statistics from 2001, with more emphasis on the trends over the last three years, from January 2009 up to May 2012. The statistics are based on incidents that were reported by the general public (Internet users) to the Cyber999 Help Centre.

“The number of cyber security incidents is on the increasing trend based on the cyber security incidents that are reported to the Cyber999.” said YBhg. Lt Col (R) Prof Dato' Husin Jazri, Chief Executive Officer, CyberSecurity Malaysia.

From 2009 to 2010, there was 127% increase whereby from 2010 to 2011, the increase was 88%. Even though the percentage increase is smaller from 127% to 88% but the absolute number is larger, i.e. from 2009 to 2010, increased by 4,526 incidents and from 2010 to 2011 increased by 7,128 incidents.

Cyber999 Help Centre was initiated by Prof Dato' Husin and launched in 2009 as a *one-stop* public service centre mainly for Internet users to lodge reports on cyber security incidents. According to Prof Dato' Husin, “the number of cyber security incidents in Malaysia is constantly increasing, which is worrying but understandable given the high rate of Internet usage in the country.”



At present, Malaysia has about 17.5 million Internet users, which is more than twice of the total combined population of Sabah and Sarawak in East Malaysia (estimated at six million). Malaysia has also about 30 million mobile phone users, larger than the total population of Malaysia (estimated at 28 million).

The huge increase of cyber security incidents from 2007 to 2011 was due to the promotional activities that were done to promote the service, thus more people know where to go for help whenever they encountered a problem in cyberspace. However, recently the number has decreased by 20% from January to May 2012 compared to the same period in 2011. Possible reasons for decrease in incidents report are:

- Improved public awareness (users are more careful online);
- Reduction of 'technical' threats due to increase of investment in sophisticated infrastructure and cyber security software;
- Introduction of 3rd layer security like mobile phone authentication + 'current location' tracking;
- Cyber criminals are moving to 'social media' and are using 'social engineering' tactics rather than technical;
- Reputation of CyberSecurity Malaysia as 'technical' specialist centre & a government agency, could mean that a large number of incidents via social networking like facebook are NOT reported to Cyber999;
- Victims are children and young adults – do not know they can report incidents such as cyber-bullying.

Based on the observation of the industry done by CyberSecurity Malaysia experts and from real life experience, there is a shift from security incidents involving 'technical' aspects such as malicious codes and Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack to the 'social' aspects such as cyber-harassment via facebook and content-related issues.

"With the propagation of social networking sites and online gaming, we are worried of the possible dangers towards children and young adults, as they may be afraid to report to the Cyber999 or probably have never heard of our services." said Prof Dato' Husin.

Prof Dato' Husin made the following recommendations:

1. To create 'Youth Internet and Mobile Phone Account'
 - A special Internet account for youth will allow parental worries about Western cultural influences such as pornography and exposure of information that are against Eastern values to be addressed.
 - The creation of such account will generate the growth of content industry that is focused on positive information for youth.
2. National Cyber Security Policy (NCSP)
 - Suggests that the NCSP be reassessed by including two main subjects that were not included at the time when the policy was enacted.
 - First is the safety aspect of Internet users. The policy emphasized and focused only on the security aspect of critical national information infrastructure (CNII). It does not take into account the weaknesses in cyber world towards Internet users who are exposed to various forms of threats that are becoming more sophisticated.



- Second is National cyber defense is not considered in the policy as the existing policy is focusing entirely on protective and defensive measures. Offensive and counter offensive measures are also needed to address the aspect of threat of cyber warfare, even though the country requires the latest information as well as the manner in handling cyber threats that are becoming more widespread.
3. Reassessment of Internet infrastructure.
- This is in response to a statement by YABhg. Tun Mahathir regarding Internet access and censorship.
 - To accomplish the aspiration of Tun Mahathir regarding the need to create a reasonable control of Internet access in Malaysia, Prof. Dato' Husin recommended a reassessment of Internet infrastructure or Internet architecture to allow for a more effective measures by relevant authorities towards Internet threats in Malaysia.

This mid-year review on cyber security scenario in Malaysia with the Sabah media is held in conjunction with the launching of DiGi CyberSAFE programme for Sabah region, a programme promoting “cyber security awareness for everyone” in collaboration with DiGi Telecommunications Sdn Bhd, Childline and the Ministry of Education (through MOE's Bahagian Teknologi Pendidikan or BTP). The DiGi CyberSAFE programme in Sabah was launched yesterday (19 June 2012) at SMK Sains Sabah or SMESH, the State's premier smart school.

How to report to the Cyber999 Help Centre

The Internet users in Malaysia can channel any cyber security incidents to Cyber999Help via:

Email : cyber999@cybersecurity.my
Customer Service Unit : 1 300 88 2999
Phone : (603) 8992 6969
Fax : (603) 8945 3442
Mobile : 019-266 5850
SMS : Type Cyber999 report <emel> <report> and SMS to15888
Or visit : www.cybersecurity.my

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CyberSecurity Malaysia is the national specialist centre for cyber security, under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). For information, visit <http://www.cybersecurity.my>. For media inquiry, please email to: media@cybersecurity.my. Follow us on social networks: www.facebook.com/CyberSecurityMalaysia and www.twitter.com/cybersecuritymy

