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## Critical Vulnerability involving Microsoft Internet Explorer

**Kuala Lumpur, 18 January 2010** – Internet users were greeted with the first critical vulnerability involving Microsoft Internet Explorer browser last week. The vulnerability, if successfully exploited allows an attacker to execute commands on the victim's computer. In its advisory released on the 15th of January, CyberSecurity Malaysia warned users on how to apply a workaround solution if they needed to use Internet Explorer 8 or earlier versions.

The full advisory can be found here:
http://www.mycert.org.my/en/services/advisories/mycert/2010/main/detail/724/index.html

Husin Jazri, CEO of CyberSecurity Malaysia, said that the situation is referred to as "0-day" as the vulnerability was exposed when there was no patch or fix available from the software vendor. "This vulnerability can simply be exploited if users visit a web page created by the attacker. The bad guys can send you a URL to trick users to visit the malicious site either via email or place the URL at popular websites and forum", said Husin. He further added, that the vulnerability also be exploited by malware authors to install trojans or viruses on the computers.

Vulnerabilities in popular application like the Internet browser or PDF reader that could potential lead to system compromise are not new. In 2009, the Malaysia Computer Emergency Response Team (MyCERT) that is a department at CyberSecurity Malaysia, released 36 advisories related to popular applications such as Adobe Flash, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Shockwave and Microsoft Office. Out of that, 9 are related directly to Internet browser applications and 21 related to browser plug-ins. Husin Jazri noted that while people may update their operating system periodically, not many people remember to update the applications that they use daily. This has resulted in the proliferation of malware that can easily infect a computer via vulnerable applications.

“We have seen attackers serving PDF file, that when you open it with a vulnerable version of a PDF viewing application; install a Trojan in your computer. Users must always be vigilant in ensuring that the operating systems, applications and anti virus are up-to-date. We also encourage users to get the latest advisories from CyberSecurity Malaysia at this website http://www.mycert.org.my ” added Husin.

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**About CyberSecurity Malaysia**

CyberSecurity Malaysia is the national cyber security specialist centre under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia. The services include:

- Cyber999™ Help Centre
- Malaysia’s Computer Emergency Response Team (MyCERT)
- Digital Forensics / CyberCSI™
- Security Management and Best Practices
- Security Assurance
- Vulnerability Assessment Services
- Malaysia Common Criteria Certification Body (MyCB)
- Information Security Professional Development
- Outreach Programmes
- Cyber Security Policy and Legal Research

For more information about CyberSecurity Malaysia, please visit website at www.cybersecurity.my. To report cyber incidents such as harassment, fraud or intrusion to our Cyber999™ service, you may email to cyber999@cybersecurity.my

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