

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CYBER SECURITY SCENARIO IN MALAYSIA HALF YEAR REVIEW 2011

An overview of activities carried out by CyberSecurity Malaysia related to computer security incidents and trends based on incidents reported to Cyber999 Help Centre

(KUALA LUMPUR) - Malaysia is now experiencing a rapid growth in Information and Communication Technology industry (ICT), whereby the usage of ICT has been widely seen in all sectors, whether government, private sector and even individuals. The rapid development of ICT industry supported by various innovation-based approach has enhanced the socio-economic and competitiveness of the country. However, the use of ICT has also revealed various forms of cyber threats.

If this threat is not contained and if the public is not appropriately educated to counter it, then the threat could undermine and destroy the Nation's well-being. To ensure the safety and security of the Malaysian cyberspace, CyberSecurity Malaysia, an agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) has been formed by the Government as the National cyber specialist and reference centre that provides technical assistance to the government, private sectors as well as the Internet users when needed.

Today, a briefing was held with the local media to inform the public on the current cyber security scenario in the country. "This is our first official media briefing on the cyber security scenario in Malaysia. It is based on our analysis, evaluation, observations and findings on the Cyber999 Help Centre statistical data within the first half of 2011" said YBhg. Lt Col Dato' Prof. Husin Jazri (Retired). Chief Executive Officer, CyberSecurity Malaysia.

Cyber999 Help Centre was launched in 2009 as a *one-stop* public service centre mainly for Internet users to lodge reports on cyber security incidents. Since it started its operation eight years ago (2002), the centre has recorded a total of 22,208 cyber security related incidents.

"For the first half of 2011, a total of **7,404** cyber security incidents were handled by CyberSecurity Malaysia's Cyber999 Security Incident Help Centre compared to 2,991 incidents reported in first half of 2010. The number of incidents had increased significantly compared to last year with an increase of **147%**". said Lt Col Dato' Prof. Husin.

Year	No. of Incidents	% (+/-)
2008	2,123	
2009	3,564	68%
2010	8,090	127%
2011 (Jan – June)	7,404	147%

Figure 1: Cyber Security Incidents Reported to Cyber999



From the analysis, the trend of incidents reported in the first half of 2011 is similar to the trend in the first half of 2010 in terms of categories. Within the first six months, all cyber security incidents categories have recorded a significant increase, with Fraud related incidents leading the list, followed by Spam, Intrusion and others. The details are as follows:

Incidents	1st Half 2011	1st Half 2010	%
Fraud	2,820	870	224
Spam	1,806	154	1,073
Intrusion	1,364	1,085	26
Malicious Codes	637	497	28
Intrusion Attempts	336	213	58
Cyberharassment	274	119	130
Vulnerability Report	70	18	289
Denial of Service	63	21	200
Content Related	34	14	143
TOTAL	7,404	2,991	147%

Figure 2: Comparison of Cyber Security Incidents Reported to Cyber999

“With the increase of Internet usage, we are constantly exposed to various types of cyber threats. However, it does not mean we should reject the development of the technology. For a country that is progressing and developing, people should use and embrace the technology. Subsequently, efforts should be made to increase cyber security awareness among the Internet users in Malaysia. And, we at CyberSecurity Malaysia will continue to play our role by conducting awareness programs, offering cyber security services, as well as collaborating with various organizations to ensure that the goal is achieved” he added.

The increase of cyber security incidents in Malaysia is closely related to the increase of the Internet usage in the country. At present, Malaysia has more than 17 million Internet users and the number is growing due to the support from the robust development of broadband infrastructure.

Microsoft’s Security Intelligence Report v10

Recently, Microsoft Corp. released its Security Intelligence Report Volume 10 (SIRv10), which highlights a worldwide polarization in terms of cybercriminal behavior and a significant increase in the use of “marketing-like” approaches and deception tactics to steal money from consumers.

“As software becomes more secure, cybercriminals are looking at alternative vulnerabilities to exploit.” said Dr Dzahar Mansor, National Technology Officer at Microsoft Malaysia.

“One of the common threats we’re seeing becoming more prevalent involves social engineering, or manipulating people into performing actions or divulging confidential information.”

According to SIRv10, attackers continue to incorporate social lures that appear to be legitimate marketing campaigns and product promotions.



“We’re seeing a significant increase specifically on social networks and online gaming due to their popularity,” Dr Dzahar added. “For example, unsuspecting users may receive a Facebook notification via email that leads them to a fake Facebook page in an attempt to steal passwords and identity information.”

To this YBhg. Lt. Col. Dato' Prof. Husin Jazri said “While criminals work to evolve their attack methods, CyberSecurity Malaysia and the industry will continue to collaborate with partners such as Microsoft to improve security and privacy and increase awareness. A combined effort helps to protect the broader online community from the threats propagating today and develop more secure software solutions to prevent criminals from reaping the benefits.

About “DontPhishMe”

As Fraud becomes more significant, particularly phishing related incidents, in the country, CyberSecurity Malaysia has taken the initiative by developing a plug-in known as “DontPhishMe”. It aims to provide protection against Internet Banking threats particularly phishing. “DontPhishMe” which is targeted for Internet Banking users in Malaysia, is CyberSecurity Malaysia's most recent innovation. It has received commendable and respected reviews from the industry and the users (public). The current version 1.6.0 is now available to the public at large, having passed thorough reviews by Mozilla and Google.

Reporting to 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 purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). For additional information, please visit our website at <http://www.cybersecurity.my>. For general inquiry, please email to: info@cybersecurity.my. Follow us on social networks: www.facebook.com (“CyberSecurity Malaysia” fan page) and www.twitter.com/cybersecuritymy



About Microsoft

Microsoft (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd (www.microsoft.com/malaysia) is a subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation and was incorporated on July 8, 1992. Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software – any time, any place and on any device.

The Media Release is jointly issued by **CyberSecurity Malaysia** and **Microsoft (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd**

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