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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFORMATION SECURITY GUIDELINES FOR SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMES)

CyberSecurity Malaysia introduced guidelines to Malaysian SMEs to enhance their information security awareness

(KUALA LUMPUR) – CyberSecurity Malaysia, an agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) has established a guideline for Malaysian SMEs entitle **Information Security Guidelines for Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** to assist securing their critical information and avoid being an easy target to unwanted intruders. With the guideline, it will indirectly boost up SMEs participation in e-commerce in the country.

The objective of the guideline is to provide awareness, basic understanding and guidance on information security to SMEs. Most SMEs know on how to protect their physical assets, however the awareness in protecting information as an asset is still very low. Thus, the Knowledge Practices suggested in the guideline will guide to ensure that SMEs are capable to manage their assets (information) appropriately in order to sustain their businesses.

"For SMEs to survive and sustain in the domestic as well as global market, they must consider Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) as the platform to grow and not shunned due to the emerging threats and risks. By referring to the guideline, it allows SMEs to maximise their productivity through effective and efficient controls in protecting information as an asset. Subsequently, it can yield more profit by minimising asset losses." Said Lt Col Prof Dato' Husin Jazri (Retired), Chief Executive Office, CyberSecurity Malaysia.

The guideline outlines basic principles of implementing information security through the exercise of the six Knowledge Practices that needs to be taken to protect business (relevant assets) within SMEs environment. With the S-ME phrase that stands for S.E.C.U.R.E M.E, it gives a good insight on how SMEs should inculcate and practice the information security and digital asset protection.

The softcopy of the guideline is now available for public to access particularly the SMEs at these following URLs:

CyberSecurity Malaysia Website
http://www.cybersecurity.my/en/knowledge_bank/info_guiding/best_practices/main/detail/639/index.html?mytabsmenu=2

CyberSAFE Portal
http://www.cybersafe.my/2011/guidelines.html

CNII Portal
http://cnii.cybersecurity.my/main/resources/guidelines/index.html

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According to Prof Dato' Husin, CyberSecurity Malaysia encourages SMEs and other entrepreneurs to leverage their businesses through the current available ICT infrastructures. "Information Security Guidelines for Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) will benefit SMEs, entrepreneurs, individuals who work in SMEs and the organizations that keen to understand SMEs and possess the desire to promote information security and controls while taking it to the next level." added Prof Dato' Husin.

There is a "1PAGE ASSESSMENT – FOR SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES" checklist in the guideline. It is designed to enable SMEs to measure their information security readiness and the assessment of managers and/or owners basic information security awareness. The guideline will also provide guidance for SMEs to practice "due care" and "due diligence" in protecting their digital assets and assurance for business profit.
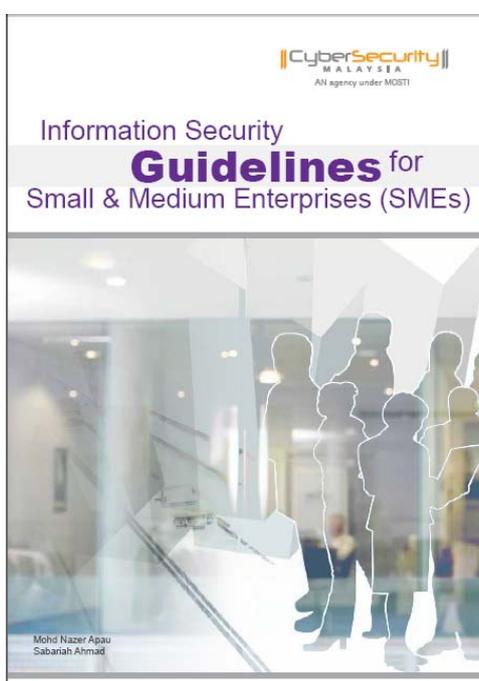
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CyberSecurity Malaysia is the national specialist centre for cyber security, under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). For additional information, please visit our website at http://www.cybersecurity.my. For general inquiry, please email to: info@cybersecurity.my. To report cyber incidents such as harassment, fraud or intrusion to our Cyber999™ Help Centre, you may email to cyber999@cybersecurity.my. Follow us on social networks: www.facebook.com ("CyberSecurity Malaysia" fan page) and www.twitter.com/cybersecuritymy

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