# Cybercrime Digest

Bi-weekly update and global outlook by the
Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC)

01 – 15 October 2021

*Source: Council of Europe*

*Date: Oct / Nov 2021*

## Octopus Conference 2021: Cooperation against Cybercrime. Register before 20 October

"This year's Octopus Conference will take place on 16-18 November providing an opportunity for cybercrime experts from the public and private sectors, as well as international and non-governmental organisations, from all over the world to share experience. A special high-level event organised in cooperation with the Hungarian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on 16 November will mark the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Budapest Convention and the forthcoming 2nd Additional Protocol on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence. In addition, 'Lightning talks' offer participants the opportunity to present ideas, projects and calls to action." Registrations are open until 20 October, and proposals for 'Lightning talks' can be submitted until 1 November. READ MORE

*Source: Council of Europe*

*Date: 11 Oct 2021*

## GLACY+ & Octopus Projects: Criminal justice cooperation on cybercrime in an emergency situation. 2nd webinar co-organised with the International Association of Prosecutors

"The second webinar in the series dedicated to the Second Additional Protocol (SAP) to the Budapest Convention, jointly organised by the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) and the Council of Europe through the GLACY+ and the Octopus Projects, took place on 11 October 2021. It focused on criminal justice cooperation on cybercrime in an emergency situation. During their presentations, the expert speakers highlighted the rationale and purpose of articles 9 and 10 of the Second Additional Protocol, which are dedicated to expedited disclosure of stored computer data in an emergency and emergency mutual assistance, respectively. The speakers explained how the provisions of the new protocol can help address the challenges criminal justice practitioners face in emergency situations. […] The next joint IAP, GLACY+ project and Octopus Project webinar will take place on 6 December 2021." READ MORE

*Source: Europol*

*Date: 4 Oct 2021*

## Ransomware Gang Arrested in Ukraine with Europol's support

"On 28 September, a coordinated strike between the French National Gendarmerie (Gendarmerie Nationale), the Ukrainian National Police (Національна поліція України) and the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), with the coordination of Europol and INTERPOL, led to the arrest in Ukraine of two prolific ransomware operators known for their extortionate ransom demands (between €5 to €70 million). The organised crime group is suspected of having committed a string of targeted attacks against very large industrial groups in Europe and North America from April 2020 onwards. […] This operation was carried out in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT)." READ MORE

RELATED ARTICLE:

Interpol, Ransomware Gang Arrested in Ukraine, 4 October 2021

*Source: Eurojust*

*Date: 11 Oct 2021*

## Fraudulent German online investment platform taken down

"With support from Eurojust and Europol, authorities in Germany, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Ukraine have taken down a major fraudulent online German investment platform which defrauded victims for at least EUR 15 million. The main suspect ran a professional-looking trading site in so-called binary options, which projected high profits. [...] During an action day, one suspect has been arrested and eight places were searched. The scammers operated between May 2019 and September 2021 and managed to attract mainly German investors with online adverts and via social media. As well, a system of special algorithms and over 250 domain names and servers were used to cover up the scam." READ MORE

*Source: Domain Name Wire*

*Date: 12 Oct 2021*

## EU Directive on domain owner data could create headaches for domain companies

"The European Union is working on a Directive around cyber security that could impact domain names and Whois. The proposed Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union includes language that suggests that many businesses that touch DNS will have to keep data on domain name owners. They would also have to guarantee its accuracy and provide it to relevant authorities and interests upon a valid request. But it also says that this has to comply with GDPR as it relates to personal data. And since GDPR effectively nuked personal data from Whois, this doesn't seem to actually "ban anonymous websites" in the EU as I read it." READ MORE

*Source: INTERPOL*

*Date: 4 Oct 2021*

## Keeping cybercriminals out: #JustOneClick can make all the difference

"Launched today, the campaign will alert the public to key tactics behind today's major cyberthreats, highlighting that #JustOneClick can make all the difference when it comes to protecting your computer systems, networks and personal information from cybercriminals.[...] Craig Jones, INTERPOL's Director of Cybercrime, said: "We click, tap or swipe hundreds of times a day, often automatically. This campaign seeks to remind the public that we should pay attention to all our actions online, even just one click. Remaining vigilant is the best way to prevent cybercrime and keep our cyberspace safe.[...]"" READ MORE

*Source: Câmara dos Deputados, Brasil*

*Date: 6 Oct 2021*

## Câmara aprova adesão do Brasil à Convenção sobre o Crime Cibernético

"A Câmara dos Deputados aprovou nesta quarta-feira (6) o Projeto de Decreto Legislativo (PDL) 255/21, que contém a Convenção sobre o Crime Cibernético, na qual são tipificados os crimes desse tipo e que traz mecanismos para facilitar a cooperação entre os signatários. A matéria será enviada ao Senado. Surgida na esfera da União Europeia, a convenção, conhecida também como Convenção de Budapeste, está em vigor desde 2004, com a adesão de países de fora do bloco, como Chile, Argentina, Estados Unidos, Costa Rica e República Dominicana. Segundo o Ministério das Relações Exteriores, a adesão do Brasil à convenção dará maior agilidade de acesso das autoridades brasileiras a provas eletrônicas sob jurisdição estrangeira." READ MORE

*Source: Electronic Frontier Foundation*

*Date: 13 Oct 2021*

## Meet the Alliance for Encryption in Latin America and the Caribbean

"The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and other internet and digital rights organisations announced the Alliance for Encryption in Latin America and the Caribbean (AC-LAC). The Alliance is a platform for collective capacity building and information, based on the principle that encryption is an essential tool for security and respect for human and fundamental rights […]. The platform, comprised of 14 organizations throughout the region, seeks to coordinate efforts with encryption initiatives at the global, regional, and national levels [...]." READ MORE

*Source: Jamaica Information Service,*

*Date: 1 Oct 2021*

## Jamaica: Government Bolstering Cybersecurity

"The Jamaican Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Daryl Vaz, says that the Government is bolstering the nation's cybersecurity by creating the necessary legislative framework and strengthening international partnerships. […] The Minister said that currently, the Cybercrimes Act, 2015 is before a Joint Select Committee of Parliament, where technical experts are working alongside lawmakers to ensure that Jamaica has modern and robust cybersecurity legislation." READ MORE

*Source: ZDNet*

*Date: 14 Oct 2021*

## Quand les cybercriminels utilisent les applications de rencontre pour gagner des millions

"Plus de 1,4 million de dollars ont été volés à des victimes par le biais d'une arnaque liée aux cryptomonnaies et perpétrée par le biais d'applications de rencontre. […] Le modus operandi ? Après avoir gagné la confiance de leur victime sur une de ces applications de rencontre, les escrocs les convainquaient de télécharger une fausse application de cryptomonnaie, les poussant à investir de l'argent avant de geler leur compte." READ MORE

*Source: AllAfrica*

*Date: 4 Oct 2021*

## Ghana: 13 Sectors to Spearhead the Fight Against Cybercrimes in Ghana

"The Ghanaian Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation has designated 13 sectors as critical parts of the economy to lead the fight against cyber-attacks in the country. The 13 sectors, which will be at the forefront of data protection in the country, are National Security and Intelligence, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Banking and Finance, Energy, Water, Transportation, Health, Emergency Services, Government, Food and Agriculture, Manufacturing, Mining and Education." READ MORE

*Source: New Telegraph Nigeria*

*Date: 9 Oct 2021*

## Cybercrime In Nigeria will Rise As Nigeria's Fintech Space Expands – Experts

"Financial experts have warned that crime rate in the Nigerian cyberspace will increase even as more people are attracted by technology deployed by Fintechs to increase participation in the emerging digital space. [...] Experts made this known at the 31st Finance Correspondents and Business Editors Seminar organised by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in Enugu on Thursday. The seminar themed: 'Trends in Nigerian Payments System: Regulating the Fintech Digital Playing Field,' was aimed to regulate the emerging Fintech industry so as to provide adequately for their customers." READ MORE

*Source: Council of Europe*

*Date: 7 Oct 2021*

## CyberSouth: Guide for First Responders to Cybercrime Investigations

"At the same speed that people use and adopt new technologies, criminals exploit those same technologies for their own profit. […] One of the latest tools developed by the Council of Europe to assist in building up the capacities of law enforcement authorities is the Guide for First Responders to Cybercrime Investigations […]. The guide aims to strengthen capacities to fight against cybercrime in the Southern Neighborhood Region of five priority countries: Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia." READ MORE

*Source: Expresso das Ilhas*

*Date: 3 Oct 2021*

## Cabo Verde: Os desafios no combate ao cibercrime

"África teve a maior penetração de Internet da última década. É também o continente onde mais dispositivos móveis são usados para serviços financeiros. [...] Os crimes, e os seus praticantes, são cada vez mais sofisticados, muitas vezes correm à frente das autoridades nacionais, que enfrentam uma luta cada vez mais desigual. [...] Cabo Verde aderiu, em Junho de 2018, à Convenção sobre o Cibercrime, também conhecida como Convenção de Budapeste [...]." READ MORE

*Source: Council of Europe*

*Date: 6 Oct 2021*

## CyberSouth: First Regional Workshop on the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention

"On 6 October 2021, the CyberSouth project organised the First Regional Workshop on the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention aimed at presenting the new legal instrument for an enhanced international cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence. Participants representing criminal justice authorities [...] from the project's priority countries attended the workshop and discussed the purpose and scope of the Protocol, the procedures for enhanced direct cooperation with providers and entities in other Parties, and the procedures for enhanced international cooperation between authorities for disclosure of stored computer data." READ MORE

*Source: Council of Europe*

*Date: 14 Oct 2021*

## CyberSouth: National Workshop on developing a cybercrime reporting mechanism in Lebanon

"Given the importance of a cybercrime reporting mechanism in the process of fighting cybercrime, the CyberSouth project initiated a series of National Workshops on the development of a dedicated cybercrime reporting mechanism in the priority countries. On 14 October, the first workshop dedicated to Lebanese stakeholders responsible for fighting cybercrime was held, aiming at discussing the cybercrime reporting mechanism and its benefits." READ MORE

*Source: Council of Europe*

*Date: 4-5 Oct 2021*

## CyberEast: Regional Meeting on Crime Proceeds Online

"The Regional Meeting on Crime Proceeds Online kicked off a series of in-country activities for the region that explore in greater depth the aspects of cooperation between cybercrime investigations and financial investigations/intelligence, with particular focus on certain types of ICT-facilitated fraud, virtual currencies and Darknet." READ MORE

*Source: Council of Europe*

*Date: Oct 2021 – Jan 2022*

## CyberEast launches Public Opinion Surveys on Cybercrime Reporting and Online Security in the Eastern Partnership region

"The landscape of cybercrime and cybersecurity threats, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and migration of both work environments and social interaction online, is quickly changing. […] Despite growing awareness, the real picture as to the nature of these threats, how much reporting of cybercrime and cybersecurity incidents is actually done, and the overall feeling of security in cyberspace among the general public remain relatively unexplored in the Eastern Partnership region. The public opinion survey projects […] are starting their piloting and field research efforts in October 2021, with final reports expected by end of January 2022. Results will be shared only with the respective countries and will provide reliable and relevant data for shaping policies, strategies and capacity building response […]." READ MORE

*Source: ABC News*

*Date: 12 Oct 2021*

## Suit blames baby's death on cyberattack at Alabama hospital

"An Alabama woman whose 9-month-old daughter died has filed suit against the hospital where she was born claiming it did not disclose that its computer systems had been crippled by a cyberattack, which resulted in diminished care that resulted in the baby's death.[…] The malpractice lawsuit, which seeks an unspecified amount of money […] contends Springhill did not reveal the severity of the cyberattack publicly […]." READ MORE

*Source: Coin Telegraph*

*Date: 13 Oct 2021*

## New Australian ransomware plan allows for seizure of cryptocurrencies linked to cybercrime

"Australian authorities will be able to seize or freeze cryptocurrencies linked to cybercrime under new legislation. […] The new measures and proposed Surveillance Legislation Amendment announced by the federal government come after a 60% surge in cyberattacks on Australian businesses and state agencies last year. […] The Ransomware Action Plan would give authorities the power to seize or freeze financial transactions in cryptocurrencies that are associated with cybercrime regardless of the country of origin. READ MORE

RELATED ARTICLE:

IT News, Government plans mandatory reporting, new offences for ransomware crackdown, 13 October 2021

*Source: Enisa*

*Date: 12 Oct 2021*

## Blue OLEx 2021: Testing the Response to Large Cyber Incidents

"Together with the Romanian National Cyber Security Directorate, the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity organised the third Blue OLEx exercise to test the operating procedures for the EU Cyber Crisis Liaison Organisation Network (CyCLONe). […] The Cyber Crisis Liaison Organisation Network (CyCLONe) is a cooperation network for Member States national authorities in charge of cyber crisis management to collaborate and develop timely information sharing and situational awareness based on tools and support provided by the EU Agency for Cybersecurity, which serves as the CyCLONe Secretariat." READ MORE

# Latest reports

- European Parliament, Why cybersecurity in the EU should matter to you, 12 October 2021
- European Parliament, AI rules: what the European Parliament wants, 06 October 2021
- Society for Computers and Law, What is digital forensics and why is it essential for Lawyers?, 04 October 2021
- McAfee, Advanced Threat Research Report, October 2021
- Embroker, 2021 Must-Know Cyber Attack Statistics and Trends, 13 October 2021
- CyberScoop, Ransomware demands are up more than 500%, the latest concern for insurers, 15 October 2021
- European Parliament, European Parliament resolution of 6 October 2021 on artificial intelligence in criminal law and its use by the police and judicial authorities in criminal matters, 6 October 2021
- Springer Link, Cyber Safety of Children in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Region: a Critical Review of Legal Frameworks and Policy Implications, 14 October 2021
- Abelson et al, Bugs in our pockets: the risks of client-side scanning, 14 October 2021
- Alan Boswell Group, Cybercrime predictions for 2022, 11 October 2021
- Microsoft, Digital Defense Report, October 2021
- ScienceDirect, The Application of Blockchain of Custody in Criminal Investigation Process, 1 October 2021
- BSA Tech Post, How Europe Is Strengthening Its E-Evidence Rules, 12 October 2021
- BlackFog, The State of Ransomware in 2021, 1 October 2021
- CSO Online, Top cybersecurity statistics, trends, and facts, 7 October 2021
- Microsoft, How cyberattacks are changing according to new Microsoft Digital Defense Report, 11 October 2021
- IT Social, Les cybercriminels accèdent 3 fois plus vite qu'auparavant aux réseaux critiques, 14 October 2021
- Krebs on Security, How Coinbase Phishers Steal One-Time Passwords, 13 October 2021
- Krebs on Security, What Happened to Facebook, Instagram, & WhatsApp?, 04 October 2021
- IT News Africa, Be Careful of These 5 WhatsApp Hoaxes Trending in Nigeria, 13 October 2021
- HelpNet Security, List of IT assets an attacker is most likely to target for exploitation, 13 October 2021
- Fortinet, Ransomware Impact on the Education Sector, 05 October 2021

# Upcoming events

- 18 October, C-PROC, (*hybrid event*), Seminar Human Rights in the Digital Sphere, Panel 3 – Cyber vulnerability in our daily life, OCTOPUS
- 18-19 October, C-PROC/GHANA, (*hybrid event*), Advisory workshop on the streamlining of procedures for MLA enhanced by the 2nd Additional Protocol related to cybercrime and electronic evidence, GLACY+
- 18-19 October, C-PROC/AZERBAIJAN, (*online*), Training on interagency cooperation and financial investigations/intelligence, CyberEast
- 18-20 October, C-PROC/SERBIA, (*on-line*), Specialised Judicial Training Course on International Cooperation, iPROCEEDS-2
- 19 October, C-PROC/EUROJUST, (*online*), Joint workshop on International Cooperation in Cybercrime: Joint Investigation Teams/Joint Investigations, GLACY+, CyberSouth, OCTOPUS, iPROCEEDS-2, CyberEast
- 19 October, C-PROC, (*online*), participation in the 10th ENISA-EC3 Workshop on CSIRT and Law enforcement cooperation, OCTOPUS
- 20 October, C-PROC/URUGUAY, (*online*), High-level workshop on legislation and the Budapest Convention - impact and accession process, GLACY+
- 20 October, C-PROC, (*online*), High-level Conference on Countering cross-border crime – human rights implications, OCTOPUS
- 20 - 21 October, C-PROC/CoE-HELP, (*hybrid event*) High level Conference Countering Cross-Border Crime: Human Rights Implication, CyberSouth
- 20-22 October, C-PROC/GHANA, (*online*), Specialized course on International Cooperation for Prosecutors and Judges, GLACY+
- 22 October, C-PROC, (*online*), Virtual needs assessment meeting in pilot countries / institutions: the case for an online training platform, OCTOPUS
- 23-28 October, C-PROC/USA, (*online*), ICANN 72 (Seattle), GLACY+
- 25 October, C-PROC/SUDAN, (*online*), Advisory workshop on data protection legislation, in collaboration with the Data Protection Unit of the Council of Europe, GLACY+
- 25 October, C-PROC/ALBANIA, (*online*), Domestic workshops on cybercrime and cybersecurity trends as well as for criminal justice statistics, iPROCEEDS-2
- 25 October, C-PROC/ALBANIA, (*desk assessment*), Reports on cybercrime and cybersecurity trends as well as for criminal justice statistics, iPROCEEDS-2
- 25-27 October, C-PROC/MOLDOVA, (*online*), Training on interagency cooperation and financial investigations/intelligence, CyberEast
- 26 October 2021, C-PROC/MOROCCO, (*online*), National Workshop on the development of the dedicated cybercrime reporting mechanism, CyberSouth
- 26 October, C-PROC, (*hybrid event*), participation in Belgian Judicial Training Institute – Exchange of professional experiences in the field of cybercrime, T-CY
- 27 October 2021, C-PROC/TUNISIA, (*online*) National Workshop on the development of the dedicated cybercrime reporting mechanism, CyberSouth
- 28 October, C-PROC, (*online*), Second Coordination Call of the Steering Committee of the International Network of the Judicial Training, GLACY+
- 28 October, C-PROC, (*online*), Multistakeholder webinar on the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention in LATAM countries, GLACY +, OCTOPUS
- 28-29 October, C-PROC/NORTH MACEDONIA (*online*), Business analysis CERT/LEA, iPROCEEDS-2
- 28-29 October, C-PROC/NORTH MACEDONIA (*desk assessment*), Guidelines and procedures on sharing of data by CERTs/CSIRTs with criminal justice authorities, iPROCEEDS-2

- 28 October 2021, C-PROC/JORDAN, (*online*) National Workshop on the development of the dedicated cybercrime reporting mechanism, CyberSouth
- 28 October-3 November, C-PROC/EAP region, (*online*), Support to the Steering Committee of the International Judicial Trainers' Network, CyberEast
- 29 October, C-PROC, (*online*), Kick-off meeting on COVID-19 related cybercrime series of activities in Asia, OCTOPUS
- October-November, C-PROC/ARMENIA, (*Desk review*), Expert review of the new Code of Criminal Procedure - compliance with the Convention, CyberEast

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and the countermeasures applied by most of the countries worldwide, in-country activities of the C-PROC capacity building initiatives foreseen in the month of October have been rescheduled to a later date.*

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