Cybercrime Digest

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

16-31 July 2024

Source: Council of Europe

Date: 30 July 2024

La Côte d'Ivoire adhère à la Convention sur la cybercriminalité

"Le 29 juillet 2024, l'Ambassade de Côte d'Ivoire en France a déposé l'instrument d'adhésion à la Convention sur la cybercriminalité. Avec cette nouvelle adhésion, 76 États sont désormais Parties, deux l'ont signée et 15 ont été invités à adhérer à la Convention" READ MORE

Source: Interpol

Date: 16 July 2024

INTERPOL operation strikes major blow against West African financial crime

"A global law enforcement operation targeting West African organized crime groups, including Black Axe, has led to hundreds of arrests, the seizure of assets worth USD 3 million, and the dismantling of multiple criminal networks around the world. Operation Jackal III, which ran from 10 April to 3 July across 21 countries on five continents, targeted online financial fraud and the West African syndicates behind it." READ MORE

Source: New York Post

Date: 30 July 2024

Microsoft investigates new outages in 365 services after global CrowdStrike debacle

"Microsoft is probing outages impacting its 365 office applications and services after the global CrowdStrike chaos earlier this month. The tech giant said some of its 365 services are experiencing problems that are keeping customers from using the cloud-based apps, which include Word, PowerPoint and Outlook." READ MORE

RELATED ARTICLE:

BBC, CrowdStrike and Microsoft: What we know about global IT outage, 19 July 2024

Source: Ahram Info

Date: 29 July 2024

Dernière ligne droite vers la naissance d'un traité décrié contre la cybercriminalité

"[…] Si la dernière version "comporte quelques améliorations", le Haut-Commissariat de l'ONU aux droits de l'Homme "reste inquiet concernant d'importantes lacunes, de nombreuses clauses ne respectant pas les normes internationales en matière de droits humains". READ MORE

RELATED ARTICLE:

EFF, International Partners Appeal to EU Delegates to Help Fix Flaws in Draft UN Cybercrime, 17 July 2024

Source: European Commission

Date: 25 July 2024

EU and Singapore conclude negotiations for landmark Digital Trade Agreement

"This deal is the first EU agreement of its kind, reflecting the EU's aspiration to be a global standard-setter for digital trade rules and cross-border data flows. The DTA will complement the 2019 EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, connecting both economies further and benefiting businesses and consumers that want to engage in digital trade.." READ MORE

Source: AP News

Date: 17 July 2024

European Union court says TikTok owner can't avoid bloc's law cracking down on digital giants

"TikTok owner ByteDance can't avoid the bloc's crackdown on digital giants, a European Union court said Wednesday. The EU's General Court rejected ByteDance's legal challenge against being classed as an online "gatekeeper" that has to comply with extra obligations under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Markets Act." READ MORE

Source: IWF

Date: 22 July 2024

AI-generated videos of child sexual abuse a 'stark vision of the future'

"A new report update from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) shows how the pace of AI development has not slowed as offenders are using better, faster and more accessible tools to generate new criminal images and videos, some of which are being found on the clear web." READ MORE

Source: Industrial Cyber

Date: 24 July 2024

Ukraine CERT-UA reveals cyberattack by UAC-0063 group on scientific institution, linked to Russian APT28

"The Ukraine Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-UA) disclosed information about a cyberattack conducted by the UAC-0063 group, which targeted a Ukrainian scientific research institution earlier this month using the Hatvibe and Cherryspy malware. The agency has identified with medium confidence that the activities of UAC-0063 are linked to those of the APT28 group (UAC-0001), which is associated with the State Department of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.[…]." READ MORE

Source: Reuters

Date: 18 July 2024

Ukraine rushes to create AI-enabled war drones

"In Ukraine, a handful of startups are developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems to help fly a vast fleet of drones, taking warfare into uncharted territory as combatants race to gain a technological edge in battle." READ MORE

Source: European Commission

Date: 26 July 2024

EuroHPC JU in the starting blocks for creating AI Factories

"The EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) Governing Board – the decision making body of the Joint Undertaking composed of the EU, its Member States and several other countries - included the AI Factories in the EuroHPC Work Programme 2024, which was published Friday, 26 July 2024. This would enable Member States to build AI Factories around existing, upgraded or new EuroHPC supercomputers, equipped with AI capabilities." READ MORE

Source: LAC4

Date: 24 July 2024

Concluyó en Costa Rica el Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge

"El Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge, co-patrocinado por LAC4 y EU CyberNet, reunió esta semana a once países en Costa Rica para aprender y poner en práctica habilidades de ciberseguridad, con el equipo "ZeroDay Mayday" de México ganando la competencia. La competencia de este año siguió un escenario ficticio de un incidente cibernético importante en el Aeropuerto Internacional Juan Santamaría." READ MORE

Source: DigWatch

Date: 23 July 2024

Nigeria imposes $220 million fine on Meta for data protection violations

"Nigeria's Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) has imposed a fine of $220 million on Meta Platforms Inc., the parent company of Facebook, for 'multiple and repeated' breaches of local consumer data protection laws in a move to enforce data privacy regulations. The FCCPC's investigation into Meta began last year following Nigerian consumers' complaints regarding personal data mishandling." READ MORE

Source: Straits Time

Date: 17 July 2024

2 charged in Malaysia over cyber bullying linked to social media influencer's death

"Two people have been brought before the sessions and magistrate's courts over communication offences on TikTok linked to the death of 30-year-old social media influencer A. Rajeswary, better known as Esha. The case is said to be the first of its kind involving a cyber-bullying victim." READ MORE

Source: Asia Nikkei

Date: 18 July 2024

Japan newspaper association calls for legal reform to curb AI search

"The Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association on Wednesday criticized generative AI search engines for copyright infringement, calling on the government to amend laws to protect intellectual property rights." READ MORE

Source: Le Monde

Date: 25 July 2024

Cybercriminalité : une opération mondiale « de désinfection » en cours et une enquête ouverte à Paris

"Une vaste « opération de désinfection » contre un virus informatique qui aurait affecté plusieurs millions d'utilisateurs, « notamment à des fins d'espionnage », est en cours depuis une semaine, a annoncé jeudi la procureure de Paris, Laure Beccuau." READ MORE

Source: Kctv5

Date: 25 July 2024

Federal prosecutors charge North Korean man in ransomware attacks on American hospitals

"A man who officials say worked for one of North Korea's military intelligence agencies has been indicted for his alleged involvement in a conspiracy to hack American healthcare providers, federal prosecutors announced Thursday. A grand jury in Kansas City indicted Rim Jong Hyok, who is accused of laundering ransom money and using the money to fund additional cyber attacks on defense, technology and government entities around the world." READ MORE

Latest reports

- Proofpoint, Threat Actors' Arsenal: How Hackers Target Cloud Accounts, 16 July 2024

- Sentinel One, NullBulge | Threat Actor Masquerades as Hacktivist Group Rebelling Against AI, 16 July 2024

- Human Security, The Party's Over: HUMAN's Satori Threat Intelligence and Research Team Cleans up "Konfety" Mobile Ad Fraud Campaign, 16 July 2024

- Group-IB, Qilin Revisited: Diving into the techniques and procedures of the recent Qilin Ransomware Attacks, 17 July 2024

- Trend Micro, The Potential Impact of the OpenSSH Vulnerabilities CVE-2024–6387 and CVE-2024-6409, 17 July 2024

- Sentinel One, FIN7 Reboot | Cybercrime Gang Enhances Ops with New EDR Bypasses and Automated Attacks, 17 July 2024

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- Google Mandiant, APT45: North Korea's Digital Military Machine, 25 July 2024

- Europol, Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2024, 26 July 2024

- Heimdal, Russia-Linked Brute-Force Campaign Targets EU via Microsoft Infrastructure, 29 July 2024

- Security week, Selenium Grid Instances Exploited for Cryptomining, 29 July 2024

- Infoblox, VIGORISH VIPER: A VENOMOUS BET, July 2024

Upcoming events

- 29 July – 9 August, C-PROC/T-CY/USA, (in person), Reconvened concluding session of the UN Ad Hoc Committee

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