Draft Telecommunications Initiative

I. Operational Plan:

I. a) Overview: To summarize research/threat areas developed to date, and to identify key stakeholders in a position to support this effort, with a primary objective of:

- Leveraging the most complete –timely intelligence regarding the most significant cyber based threats, and
- Developing a triage/feedback and referral process equipped with necessary resources (personnel and equipment) to develop intelligence to the actionable level (further defined below) and
- Identify gaps in resources and reasonable steps recommended for specific stakeholders (Law Enforcement, NCFTA and Industry) to fill these gaps.

-Actionable intelligence = developed sufficiently so that threat/actors can be:

- Further located/identified
  - (who are involved and where they are located)
- Mitigated through timely enhancement of security practices/procedures
- Effectively neutralized through:
  - Pro-active Law Enforcement engagement (both domestically & internationally)
    - This may include both criminal and civil avenues in coordination with appropriate authorities

II. Primary Threat Areas:

Through several coordinated focus group meetings, follow up research with domestic and international law enforcement and a comparison of cross-sector cyber crime trends, the following areas may be included in identified urgent emerging threats:

- Increasing exploits of mobile applications (Text, SMS and # spoofing)
- Traffic pumping & potentially related sym card theft/re-shipping
- T-DOS attacks associated with account take over (Financial Services)

- Customer account take over- adding alternate phone number
- Call forwarding – also associated with above listed areas

- OS Exploits to Mobile platforms. Hacked or cloned hardware or peripheries
- SMSishing, Vishing, VOIP, IP Relay exploits – as part of social engineering mix
- Targeted regional campaigns – possibly tied to Elderly Exploitation/health care scams.

III. Criminal On-Line Forums – Expanding the threat picture:

In further developing the threat picture/landscape regarding these areas NCFTA and L.E analysts have identified various criminal on-line forums where certain of these areas have been actively discussed. Several excerpts follow:

** Update several examples of recent excerpts from Forums here…….

(in development)

IV. Stakeholders Supporting this effort – NCFTA included:

- Industry -
  - Primary Carriers/Telcos:
    - Verizon (including Wireless)
    - AT&T
    - Qwest
    - Sprint
    - T-Mobile
  - Cable/ISP
    - Time/Warner
    - Comcast/NBC Universal
    - Cox Inc (Communications)
    - My Brighthouse
  - Mobile Apps/operating systems etc..

        - Nokia
        - Symbian
        - Google
        - RIM
        - PINDrop
        - EWS – & The Clearing House
    - Industry Associations (messaging, education and intelligence sharing)
        - CFCA
        - CTCA?
        - IAFCI?
        - HTCIA?
        - MS-ISAC (other ISACs)
- Government/Law Enforcement-
    - Law Enforcement
        - FBI
        - DOJ-CCIPS
        - DHS- HIS, USSS
        - DoD- DIA
        - US Postal Insp
        - International Task Force (housed/managed via FBI at NCFTA)
    - Govt/Regulatory
        - FCC
        - FTC-CFPB (if still in existence)
        - BPI

V. Short Term Objectives: (in progress)

- Ensuring identified priority threat/actors are identified, and that "actionable" intelligence is leveraged/developed & forwarded to Law Enforcement.
- Enhance intelligence sharing through secure/closed listservs
- Designate NCFTA and on-board L.E staffing to lead/support this effort
- Establish a core list of **primary "Metrics"** measuring positive results
- Obtain resource support from Industry Stakeholders including certain funding to sustain this initiative, and potentially embedded industry staffing to assist/support real-time triage and strategy development.
- Establish monthly peer calls to further share intelligence/trends and to updated strategies and identify gaps.
- Clarify relationships with key industry associations, and further define – memorialize roles/expectations.
- Develop goals/objectives for training/education as proposed by FCC and others. (include in Metrics)

VI. Budget Projections

Based on an evaluation of prior costs associated with similar initiatives, including staffing, software/hardware and misc overhead costs, NCFTA projects a reasonable budget for this effort at @ $110,000 annually. As this initiative is considered complementary to the broader Cy –Fin initiative in which Federal Law Enforcement has a substantial vested interest, $20-25K of this projected budget will be absorbed as part of those contracts/agreements. In addition, other non-telco industry partners have agreed to contribute $10K in funding to support this effort. Remaining funding to be shared among industry stakeholders = $75 – 80K/annually.