

Zyber Global

DECEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 5

MAKING DIGITAL SAFE WITH EXPERT CYBER SECURITY TRAINING

Welcome to the December (5th)
edition of Zyber Global Centre's
Monthly Newsletter



SEASON'S GREETINGS

I am really looking forward to the holiday season and hope you are too! However you are planning to spend it, be safe especially online and think before you shop and hand over your money and/or your personal details!

Do read the Zyber News Roundup below which keeps you up to date



Esther George, CEO Zyber Global Centre

This Month's Features

Zyber Spotlight

The interview spotlight this month is on Ms Emma Beckles, Programme Officer, the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, UK.

Zyber News

We also have a roundup of the latest international cybercrime news.

Zyber Focus

Feature article on Drugs and Cybercrime (Part 3); by Arsha Gosine, Head of Research.

Zyber Global Events

The next Stay Safe Online Webinar by Zyber Global is on the 30th of December, 2020.

Register now to attend.

" My role is to support Commonwealth countries to address barriers while trying to establish a viable and user friendly cyberspace....."

Emma Beckles
Programme Officer,
Commonwealth Secretariat, U.K.



Continued from page 1.....,,
with the latest arrest of cyber criminals by
the police and how cybercrime will cost the
world \$10.5 trillion annually by 2025.

Zyber News Roundup

Cybercrime To Cost The World \$10.5 Trillion Annually By 2025

So to help you stay safe online this season, I
have 7 tips for you to remember:

1. If the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is! Beware it's probably a scam.
2. Use the secure payment options recommended by reputable websites and do not accept requests to pay by other mean such as bank transfer.
3. Use a credit card when making purchases over £100 and up to £30,000 as you receive protection under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
4. Access the website you are purchasing from by typing it in to the web browser and do not click on links in emails or social media posts.
5. Use complex passwords to secure your online accounts, and
6. Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) or multi-factor authentication (MFA).
7. Always think carefully before you give out your personal or financial information.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays from me
and everyone at Zyber Global!



ESTHER GEORGE

Editor and CEO Zyber Global Centre

If it were measured as a country, then cybercrime – which is predicted to inflict damages totalling \$6 trillion USD globally in 2021 – would be the world's third-largest economy after the U.S. and China. Cybersecurity Ventures expects global cybercrime costs to grow by 15 percent per year over the next five years, reaching \$10.5 trillion USD annually by 2025, up from \$3 trillion USD in 2015. This represents the greatest transfer of economic wealth in history, risks the incentives for innovation and investment, is exponentially larger than the damage inflicted from natural disasters in a year, and will be more profitable than the global trade of all major illegal drugs combined.

The damage cost estimation is based on historical cybercrime figures including recent year-over-year growth, a dramatic increase in hostile nation-state sponsored and organized crime gang hacking activities, and a cyber attack surface which will be an order of magnitude greater in 2025 than it is today.

Read more:

<https://cybersecurityventures.com/hackerpocalypse-cybercrime-report-2016/>





Zyber Spotlight

EMMA BECKLES

**PROGRAMME OFFICER,
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT**

Emma is a dedicated cybercrime expert, bringing her skills and experience to assist Commonwealth countries in developing and refining their response to the continuing threat of cyber attacks.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your journey to where you are today in your career?

My journey has been quite a long road to where I am today, working as a Programme Officer on cybercrime issues. Prior to joining the Commonwealth Secretariat, I completed my legal studies and this also heightened my interest in criminal law and in particular cybercrime. I wanted to know the psychology behind cybercrime and how it should be dealt with.

Cybercrime touches many aspects of 'traditional crimes and I was interested to learn how to combat this, how to ensure awareness and develop tools to safeguard against the onslaught that seemed to be taking the 'online' to a whole new level.

I have also been very interested in International development through previous work streams, so you could say that I have landed my dream job; a perfect combination of international development and cybercrime

What is the Commonwealth Secretariat's vision for increasing the global response to cybercrime? What is your role in that?

The Secretariat's vision for increasing the global response to cybercrime is mandated in the **Commonwealth Cyber Declaration**. The ultimate goal through our cyber programming is therefore to ensure that the internet remains free, open and inclusive across the Commonwealth and our activities supports:

1. Law enforcement and the judiciary to effectively tackle cybercrime,
2. Citizens to acquire knowledge to protect themselves online,
3. Effective cybersecurity to encourage positive economic development and social rights online,
4. A thriving cybersecurity sector,
5. The protection and resilience building of public services online to mitigate against cybercrime,
6. Mechanisms to tackle cyber threats to critical national infrastructure and national security.

As Programme Officer for cybercrime, my role is to deliver the vision as outlined above and support Commonwealth countries to address barriers while trying to establish a viable and user-friendly cyberspace.

For the full interview see:

<https://zyberglobal.com/my-blog>



Zyber News Roundup

Europol and partners thwart massive credit card fraud scheme

Europol and several national law enforcement agencies have teamed up to disrupt trade in stolen credit card data on the dark web, ultimately preventing around €40 million (US\$48 million) in losses for both consumers and financial organizations. The operation, dubbed Carding Action 2020, was carried out over a span of three months and involved an analysis of 90,000 pieces of credit card information. It was led by law enforcement authorities from Italy and Hungary and supported by their peers from both the United Kingdom and Europol.

Read more:

<https://www.welivesecurity.com/2020/11/27/europol-partners-thwart-credit-card-fraud-scheme/>

Three arrested as INTERPOL, Group-IB and the Nigeria Police Force Disrupt Prolific Cybercrime Group

Three suspects have been arrested in Lagos following a joint INTERPOL, Group-IB and Nigeria Police Force cybercrime investigation. The Nigerian nationals are believed to be members of a wider organized crime group responsible for distributing malware, carrying out phishing campaigns and extensive business email compromise scams. The suspects are alleged to have developed phishing links, domains, and mass mailing campaigns in which they impersonated representatives of organizations.

They then used these campaigns to disseminate 26 malware programs, spyware and remote access tools, including AgentTesla, Loki, Azorult, Spartan and the nanocore and Remcos Remote Access Trojans. These programs were used to infiltrate and monitor the systems of victim organizations and individuals, before launching scams and syphoning funds. According to Group-IB, the prolific gang is believed to have compromised government and private sector companies in more than 150 countries since 2017.

Group-IB was also able to establish that the gang is divided into subgroups with a number of individuals still at large. While investigations are still ongoing, some 50,000 targeted victims have been identified so far.

The year-long investigation, dubbed Operation Falcon, saw INTERPOL's Cybercrime and Financial Crime units work closely with Group-IB to identify and locate threats, and ultimately, assist the Nigerian Police Force, via the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Abuja, in taking swift action.

Craig Jones, INTERPOL's Cybercrime Director highlighted the outstanding cooperation between all those involved in the investigation and underlined the importance of public-private relationships in disrupting virtual crimes.

Read more:

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/three-arrested-as-interpol-group-ib-and-the-nigeria-police-force-disrupt-prolific-cybercrime-group/>



Zyber Focus

Drugs and Cybercrime, Part 3

This is the concluding part of 'Drugs and Cybercrime'. So far, we looked at the Silk Road, the cryptomarkets, the Dark Web and the scope of the drug trade over the internet. In this last section, I thought we would look briefly at the Global Drug Survey 2018 and the general impact of Covid-19.

The Global Drug Survey 2018 looked at the efficiency and speed of drug delivery across the world using encrypted messaging and smartphones. London, New York and Berlin were found to be the top countries where drugs were delivered faster than a pizza delivery (this was used as the benchmark). Professor Adam R Winstock, a consultant psychiatrist and founder of the survey said "that Britain has one of the highest rates of CCTV cameras in the world and so people want to keep themselves away from prying eyes. People are looking at getting the best bang for their buck - this is the expansions of online consumption. They look for convenience, product range, quality vendor ratings - it's exactly the same reasons you would buy stuff off Amazon."

According to the Survey, Ecstasy, followed by cannabis, LSD and novel (unapproved) drugs are the most commonly purchased on the dark web, which also found the popularity of former "legal highs" had declined. Vince O'Brien, Head of Drugs Operations at the National Crime Agency (NCA), said that people "just don't know what they're buying. When you go to these marketplaces it's not like buying cannabis from a local dealer, you go on to an eBay-like site to get everything from class C and A drugs alongside illegal weaponry". Two thirds of survey respondents said positive feedback was the main reason for them choosing to buy from a particular site, followed by the ability to ship drugs to their country. Undoubtedly, online buying will continue to grow exponentially, especially in these unprecedented times of Covid-19.

Has Covid-19 affected the drug trade?

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Europol conducted a study on the impact of Covid-19 on the drug markets (May 2020). Europol received information from 26 EU Member States, the United Kingdom and 14 partner countries on the crime situation during the COVID-19 pandemic through weekly reporting and a questionnaire.

Catherine De Bolle, Executive Director, Europol stated that:

"The pandemic has had a major impact on our lives and is slowing down our economy.

However, this economic trend has not been seen in international drug trafficking. These illegal markets continue to generate huge profits, including during the pandemic. Seizures of illegal drugs in some EU countries during the first half of 2020 have been higher than in the same months of previous years.

More than ever, these findings should motivate us to ensure that any recovery from the pandemic is accompanied by a strong and effective international law enforcement response.

We need to establish that drug traffickers do not benefit from the potential social and economic consequences of the current crisis."

Some of the findings from the survey included:

- Global restrictions on travel and other measures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have had a temporary disruptive impact on the drug market leading to shortages of and higher prices for some drugs, but the situation is subject to rapid change.
- The disruption to the supply chain and logistics of drug trafficking in Europe is most evident at the distribution level, because of social distancing measures.
- The movement of bulk quantities of drugs between EU Member States has continued despite the introduction of border controls due to the continued commercial transportation of goods throughout the EU.

It is evident that that for these criminals 'money speaks' and they would find the ways and means necessary to sell their drugs. In fact, drug distribution through the postal system was found to have increased since Covid-19 began.

The full report can be accessed here:

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/13097/EU-Drug-Markets_Covid19-impact_final.pdf



Zyber Global Events

Zyber Global's [Stay Safe Online Webinar](#) is on Wednesday 30 December 2020 at 1600 hours GMT. [Register now to attend.](#)

OTHER CYBER SECURITY EVENTS

<p>INTERPOL & GLACY+ Technical Webinars: Crypto for Criminal Justice Authorities 1, 3, 7, 10 December 2020, 13.00 UTC</p>	<p>Caribbean Conference on Corruption, Compliance and Cybercrime 7- 8 December 2020</p>	<p>Justice in the time of Covid-19: Challenges o the Judiciary in Latin America and the Caribbean (ILAC) 7 December 2020 at 16:00 CET</p>
<p>Cryptography is the one of the core technological enabler of the information technology being so widely received by the public. Without it, the little trust in the Internet would have prevented the network to grow so large. However, the knowledge of cryptography has not been covered enough in the context of the law enforcement training. The training aims to provide knowledge and a conceptual understanding of cryptography, necessary for criminal justice authority officials. It includes: Hash and crypto essentials; Symmetric cryptography; Asymmetric cryptography; Trust in Internet - digital certificates; and the Fundamentals of Crypto-currencies.</p>	<p>The Conference hosted by the Caribbean Development Bank and the World Bank Group will convene thought-leaders from across the world to share and discuss new challenges and solutions for corruption, compliance, and cybercrime in the Caribbean. Speakers will include experienced global anti-corruption practitioners, anti-money laundering specialists, cyber-crime professionals, development bankers, policy makers, regulators, law enforcement personnel, academics, private sector representatives and civil society leaders.</p>	<p>The Report maps the new challenges and problems presented by the pandemic and subsequent emergency measures. The report also identifies good practices, trends and gaps in how governments and the judiciary itself have responded to the crisis in the region. It also provides recommendations for how governments can respond in the short and long term to ensure that the judiciary can continue guaranteeing access to justice, while also protecting judicial independence, during a protracted crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>For further information: <u>https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/webinars</u></p>	<p>For further information: <u>https://web.cvent.com/event/3a423a0a-ad90-4a22-a7f1-7d6ca5fdad7f/websitePage:645d57e4-75eb-4769-b2c0-f201a0bfc6ce</u></p>	<p>For further information: <u>https://ilacnet.org/justice-in-the-times-of-covid-19-challenges-to-the-judiciary-in-latin-america-the-caribbean/</u></p>



Zyber Global Online Events

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