

Zyber Global

NOVEMBER 2021 | ISSUE 16

MAKING DIGITAL SAFE WITH EXPERT CYBER SECURITY TRAINING

Welcome to the 16th Edition, November 2021 of Zyber Global Centre's monthly newsletter.

I was expecting October to be a busy cybercrime month and I was right. In early October we saw the release of the Pandora Papers 11.9 million leaked documents published by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which exposed hidden wealth, tax evasion, and money laundering.

We also had the Facebook outage on the 4th October where Facebook and its subsidiaries, Messenger, Instagram, WhatsApp, Mapillary, and Oculus, became globally unavailable for six to seven hours.

In the UK we have recently had the tragic murder of the MP for Southend West David Amess. Many MPs since his death have spoken of a toxic and increasingly polarised political culture where online trolling has become widespread, including personal insults and direct threats of violence. It has been suggested that anonymity on social media should be banned. Since any ban would only be UK-wide, I am not sure how effective that would be.

Last week the UK National Cyber Security Centre Director of Policy and Communications, Nicola Hudson appeared on BBC's Rip-Off Britain to talk about tackling scams and what can be done to take them down. Rip-Off Britain is one of my favourite shows, it features quite a lot of cybercrimes. You can watch the episode on BBC iPlayer

As always, do write in and let us know what topics you would like to see discussed in the November newsletter. We always appreciate your feedback! In the meantime, keep safe!!



Esther George, CEO Zyber Global Centre

*BEST REGARDS
ESTHER GEORGE*

This Month's Features

Zyber Spotlight

The [interview spotlight](#) this month is on Kerry-Ann Barrett, Cybersecurity Policy Specialist, Organisation of American States (OAS)

Zyber News

We have a roundup of the latest international [cybercrime news](#).

Zyber Global Events

The next [Stay Safe Online Webinar](#) by Zyber Global is due to take place on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 [register now to attend](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA



I really hope as the years go by that regionally and globally, players will begin to understand how interwoven but distinct each area of the digital world is. That traditional services have now found a new platform for delivery and so has crime, and it's in working together (technical practitioners, policymakers, and criminal justice system) that we can begin to establish normalcy around the responsible use of technology.

KERRY-ANN BARRETT

CYBERSECURITY POLICY SPECIALIST, OAS



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Zyber Spotlight

KERRY-ANN BARRETT
Cybersecurity Policy
Specialist,
Organisation
of American States

Can you tell us about yourself and your journey to working with the Organization of American States (OAS) and specializing in cybersecurity?

Where should I start. At the time I applied for a short-term consultancy with OAS, I was still the Manager of Legal Services at the Ministry of National Security in the Caribbean. Once I was successful in the interview, I was appointed as the Cybersecurity Policy specialist and have been there ever since.

That's the short version. Prior to this I was a legal trade specialist assigned to develop the legal framework for my government's (Trinidad & Tobago) Single Electronic Window. As you can imagine, this then involved researching digital evidence, privacy, data protection, intellectual property, resilience and redundancy for the systems and legal repercussions and the list goes on. My interest in digital commerce, trade and security started to build and I was then appointed as the co-chair for our national cybersecurity working group and led the development of our Cybercrime Bill. Since then, I have enjoyed seeing the intersection between cybersecurity and cybercrime and have been an advocate on how the two relate to each other, especially in a political setting with national security considerations.

What is the best part of your job?

One of the rewarding aspects of the job is receiving gratitude from our member states which reaffirms that our efforts are helping them to achieve their cybersecurity and by extension cybercrime goals.

Working with 34 independent and sovereign states, as you would expect, comes with 34 different Government processes, 4 different languages and 34 varying states of maturity. So, when you hear you've met the expectations of even one, it encourages you to keep going.

I know that you are passionate about the need for more women to be involved in cybersecurity. What are you and the Organization of American States doing to take this forward?

According to a UN study, 73% of women in the world have been exposed or have experienced some type of violence online, and that 1 in 5 Internet users lives in countries where acts of sextortion, harassment, and online sexual violence against women are unlikely to be punished. Recognizing that the Americas is not isolated from this reality, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) working closely with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), have been developing knowledge resources such as the publication entitled "Cybersecurity of women during the COVID-19 pandemic: Experiences, risks and self-care strategies in the new normal." This paper provides an analysis of cybersecurity and gender dimensions in the context of the health crisis, emphasizing the impact of cyber threats according to gender and the use that women are giving the Internet, as well as their levels of digital literacy.

In addition, the OAS has worked for the last 3 years with Trend Micro, with the support of the Government of Canada and the Citi Foundation, to develop the "Cyberwomen Challenge." This challenge consists of a 6-hour online technical exercise, in which the participants live the experience of tackling a cybersecurity attack, gaining more in-depth and practical knowledge about incident response and cybersecurity. Since 2018, more than 30 cyber exercises of this type have been carried out in the region, involving more than 1,800 women from 14 different countries.

Read more:

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



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Zyber News Roundup

DOJ, Europol arrest hundreds as part of international darknet drug operation

The US Justice Department, Europol and dozens of police forces worldwide announced hundreds of arrests and the seizure of \$31 million as part of operation Dark HunTOR -- an effort to disrupt dark web marketplaces selling guns, drugs and more.

Police forces in the US, Australia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK arrested 150 people while seizing 45 firearms and 234kg of drugs -- including 152.1kg of amphetamine, 21.6kg of cocaine, 26.9kg of opioids and 32.5kg of MDMA. More than 200,000 ecstasy, fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone and methamphetamine pills were seized alongside counterfeit medicine. Europol said a number of the suspects arrested are considered "high-value targets."

US officials arrested 65 people -- the most of any country involved -- and Germany nabbed 47 others. 24 people were arrested in the UK, and others were picked up across Europe. All of the law enforcement agencies involved noted that investigations are still being conducted as they try to identify the people behind certain dark web accounts.

The Justice Department said arrests were made of those involved in active dark web marketplaces as well as inactive ones, including Dream, WallStreet, Dark Market and White House, which shut down this month.

Italian police also disrupted the DeepSea and Berlusconi dark web marketplaces, seizing nearly \$4.2 million in cryptocurrency.

"The point of operations such as the one today is to put criminals operating on the dark web on notice: the law enforcement community has the means and global partnerships to unmask them and hold them accountable for their illegal activities, even in areas of the dark web," Europol deputy executive director of operations Jean-Philippe Lecouffe said.

Read more:

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/doj-europol-arrest-hundreds-as-part-of-international-darknet-drug-operation/>

South African police arrest eight men suspected of targeting widows in romance scams

South African police have arrested eight suspects in connection to romance scams that defrauded at least 100 women.

The gang used "sob stories" as a lure to push women -- including widows and divorcees -- to give them money, as reported by the BBC.

Law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, the Secret Service, and Europol, estimate that over the course of the scam, victims suffered close to \$7 million in losses.

According to Cape Town police, the suspects were arrested in an organized raid at multiple locations in the early morning of October 19. Ranging in age from 33 to 52 years old, the suspects are allegedly tied to a wider transnational organized crime syndicate in Nigeria known as the "Black Axe".

"It is alleged that these suspects, allegedly preyed on victims, many of whom are vulnerable widows or divorcees who were led to believe that they were in a genuine romantic relationship but were scammed out of their hard-earned money," local police claim. "The suspects used social media websites, online dating websites to find and connect with their victims."

Many of the alleged victims are located in the United States, however, South African law enforcement says that the organization also hit those close by -- including "neighbors, parents, friends, and family." US prosecutors have applied to have the suspects extradited. The suspects face charges of aggravated identity theft, money laundering, and conspiracy to commit wire & mail fraud.

The FBI estimates that \$133 million has been lost in romance scams over the course of 2021.

Read more: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/south-african-police-arrest-eight-men-suspected-of-romance-scams/>

Governments turn tables on ransomware gang REvil by pushing it offline

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Law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, the Secret Service, and Europol, estimate that over the course of the scam, victims suffered close to \$7 million in losses.

Read more:

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/exclusive-governments-turn-tables-ransomware-gang-revil-by-pushing-it-offline-2021-10-21/>



Zyber Global Events

The next **Stay Safe Online Webinar** by Zyber Global is due to take place on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 16:00 hrs. **Register now to attend.**

OTHER CYBERSECURITY EVENTS

<p>Workshop on Law Enforcement operations, their Impact and the Darknet (LOID) The Annual American Society of Criminology (ASC) Conference 16th November 2021, Chicago, USA</p>	<p>Council of Europe Octopus Conference 2021 Online Event 16-18 November</p>	<p>The International Conference on Cyberlaw, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity 2021 Virtual Event 24th - 26th November, 2021</p>
<p>This workshop brings together law enforcement officials, cybersecurity practitioners and academics to discuss this issue. Our aim is to facilitate the sharing of experiences and research findings in order to understand the work law enforcement officers do online as well as to assess and explain the impacts of their operations/ investigations on cybercrime and Darknet illicit markets. We wish to address current results and thoughts about policing cybercrime and Darknet illicit markets to provide a comprehensive overview of what works in police cyber-investigations and Darknet operations which would allow us to better understand the best approaches for law enforcement to adapt to the growing threat of cybercrime. This workshop will improve the readiness of law enforcement agencies, and will foster new ties between practitioners and academics interested in the future of regulation for Darknet illicit activities. This event is free but places are limited. Registration is necessary to attend. Live streaming of the work shop will be available on YouTube</p>	<p>The Octopus Conference provides an opportunity for cybercrime experts from public and private sectors as well as international and non-governmental organizations from all over the world to share experience and develop responses. A special event with high level interventions will be organized on 16 November in cooperation with the Hungarian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Budapest Convention and the forthcoming 2nd additional Protocol on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence. On the 17 and 18 November, multiple workshops will punctuate the day, including regional workshops (for Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific, Africa) and thematic workshops (Capacity building, Ransomware, AI...), as well as "lightning talks" with successful proposals of ideas, projects, calls to action presented by participants. A closing Plenary session will take a look at Octopus take-aways.</p>	<p>The International Conference on Cyberlaw, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity 2021 is taking place from 24th to 26th November, 2021, (IN VIRTUAL MODE), organized by Cyberlaws.Net and Pavan Duggal Associates, Advocates, Supreme Court of India. This Conference looks at the intersection of issues concerning Cyberlaw, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity. This year, the Conference is dealing with topical and relevant issues that the world is facing in cyberspace, given the advent of Covid-19. The Conference seeks to adopt a multi-disciplinary approach and brings speakers, participants and representatives from various disciplines in different parts of the digital and mobile ecosystem. These include representatives from Central & State Governments, various Ministries, Law Enforcement Agencies, Police, Business, Information Technology, Corporate Sector, Academicians, Scholars, Service Providers, International Organizations and distinguished thought leaders.</p>
<p>For further information: https://www.linkedin.com/events/asc-workshoponlawenforcementope6833091835016171520/ https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/workshop-on-law-enforcement-operations-their-impact-and-the-darknet-tickets-154133299849</p>	<p>For further information: https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/octopus-interface-2021</p>	<p>For further information: https://cyberlawcybercrime.com/speakers-iccc-2021/</p>



Zyber Global Online Events

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