

COVID-19 – Cybercrime Guidance

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have issued guidance to businesses during the current pandemic in light of the fact that criminals are exploiting the virus, playing on people's fears and craving for news updates, and being aware of this fact is particularly important as more and more people are presently working from home.

The NCSC advise that cyber criminals are sending phishing emails to exploit the situation, hoping to trick people into clicking on a link that could bring malware onto the computer and business' systems. These emails have been seen to claim;

- information on how to cure coronavirus
- money by way of a reward
- encouraging people to donate money
- Updates on the virus

The NCSC report that these emails have been seen in a lot of jurisdictions.

The NCSC also reports that there has been a surge in the registration of coronavirus websites which in itself they say is evidence that criminals are probably looking to capitalise on the pandemic.

The NCSC is therefore asking people to refer to its online guidance and blogs which include how such emails can be spotted and measures that can be taken to prevent malware and ransomware.

The Director of Operations at the NCSC, Paul Chichester, says:

“We know that cyber criminals are opportunistic and will look to exploit people's fears, and this has undoubtedly been the case with the Coronavirus outbreak.

“Our advice to the public is to follow our guidance, which includes everything from password advice to spotting suspect emails.”

The NCSC website is www.ncsc.gov.uk

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