

# CYBER CRIME SENTINEL

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IN THE NEWS

TOP CYBER HEADLINES

THE LATEST NEWS ON CYBERCRIME FROM THE REGIONAL CYBER CRIME UNIT

This newsletter has been collated by West Midlands Regional Cyber Crime Unit and is intended for wider distribution within the West Midlands Region to raise awareness among businesses and members of the public.

## CYBER PROTECT WEEKLY TIP

### Top Cyber Security Threats for Business

Cyber-attacks, like most elements of the cyber world, are constantly evolving and cyber security threats are a cause of concern for individuals and business alike. The first step in protecting yourself or business from cyber security threats is to be aware of the threat itself below are the common threats faced by business and tips on how you can avoid becoming the next victim of a cyber-attack.

- 📄 **Social Engineering** - a unique type of cyber-attack that involves the criminal psychologically manipulating an individual in order to bypass security measures or gain sensitive information.
- 📄 **Outdated Software**
- 📄 **Cloud Vulnerabilities** - while Cloud services are widely used and often deemed as essential to many it can open up the possibility of a wide range of cyber-attacks.
- 📄 **Ransomware** - attacks that infect a network and hold systems and data 'hostage' until a ransom is paid.
- 📄 **Outdated Hardware** - as hardware becomes outdated it often cannot support updated security measures.
- 📄 **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policies** - personal devices are also easier to hack than company devices thus giving criminals an opening to breach networks.
- 📄 **Mobile Security Threats** - encompasses everything from mobile spyware and malware to unauthorised access to devices (usually as a result of loss or theft).
- 📄 **Internet of Things** - encompasses any device connected to the internet, from smart watches to connected cars, criminals can exploit this connectivity.
- 📄 **Third Party Exposure** - many businesses utilize third party services, however, using a third party does not exempt you from the repercussions of a data breach on the side of the third party.

### Tips on Minimising Security Threats

- 📄 Educate yourself and others of the risks present.
- 📄 Remain mindful of new risks and ways scammers and cyber attackers may try to compromise or breach data.
- 📄 Ensure software is patched and up to date and update and replace old hardware that may be a security risk.
- 📄 Ensure protocols are always followed and be aware of the possibility of a social engineering attack even during regular conversations.
- 📄 Review BYOD policies ensuring that these devices are in line with security protocol and that staff are aware and adequately trained to minimise the risk associated with such policies.
- 📄 Cloud encryption can be crucial in minimising the risk to your data, ensure that passwords used are strong.

### Cyber threat to disrupt start of university term

In response to the recent ransomware attacks on Northumbria University and Newcastle University the National Cyber Security Centre has issued a warning to educational institutes. Though, it's not just universities at risk, just last month group colleges in Yorkshire and a college in Lancashire also faced attacks in August.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-54182398>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/the-cyber-threat-to-universities>

### Wales says personal data of 18,000 COVID patients accidentally published in data breach

18,105 individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 had their details uploaded to a public server where they remained visible for 20 hours late last month. The data breach is thought to be down to human error, the information leaked included initials, dates of birth, gender and geological information, however, for 1,926 individuals in nursing or supported living homes the names of their homes were also leaked.

<https://bit.ly/35LM1HN>

UK condemns Chinese cyber attacks against governments and businesses - <https://bit.ly/2FISf07>

US charges two Iranian hackers for years-long cyber-espionage, cybercrime spree - <https://zd.net/2FMWqaY>

Helping organisations - and researchers - to manage vulnerability disclosure - <https://bit.ly/33Ecc05>

Bank branch staff and police team up to stop £19 million of fraud in first half of 2020 - <https://bit.ly/2FDH1u2>

The Internet of Things devices that could put you at risk from hackers - <https://zd.net/3muyKt0>

## TECH TALK

### NCSC Weekly Threat Report Topics

Newcastle University suffers a serious cyber incident

EPPlus generated macros provide novel way to help malware evade detection

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-11th-september-2020>

Research Finds Nearly 800,000 Access Keys Exposed Online - <https://bit.ly/2EbeUBD>

Yet Another Security Flaw Discovered in Bluetooth Technology - <https://bit.ly/35J3H6M>

Free VPNs are a privacy nightmare. You shouldn't download them - <https://bit.ly/2Fed78X>

How to boost WhatsApp's privacy and better protect your data - <https://bit.ly/35MkBBi>

How to do secure system administration - <https://bit.ly/3hGP0Dm>

NCSC: Malware & ransomware guidance: the reboot! - <https://bit.ly/3cgpPGY>

# EVENTS & ENGAGEMENTS



Got a question about  
**cyber security?**

Ask us on our live Q&A

**slido**

10:00 am - Wednesdays

If you received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS)

[report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

<https://app.sli.do/event/jvodjdcu/>



THE  
**CYBER  
RESILIENCE  
CENTRE**  
FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

## CORE MEMBER - FREE

### Includes:

NCSC Guidance - How organisations can protect themselves in cyberspace, including the 10 steps to cyber security from the Government NCSC division.

**NCSCs Exercise In A Box** – a tool to give your organisation a ‘dummy’ run of a cyber attack. Similar to testing your fire drill. Tailored for different sized organisations.

**NCSC Board Toolkit** - Resources designed to encourage essential cyber security discussions between the Board and their technical experts.

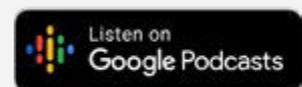
E-news – regular digestible updates relevant to West Midlands organisations about cyber resilience

<https://www.wmcrc.co.uk/>



Our lives are relying on technology more every day. Join us each Friday for your bitesize cybersecurity podcast. In this increasingly technical world we deliver non-technical cyber news, and identify the current threats we're facing.

<https://cyberthreatweekly.buzzsprout.com/>



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