BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE
Protecting People and Fighting Crime
Together

CYBER HUB

Cyber crime in business: The facts

Bedfordshire Police has launched a new unit dedicated to investigating cyber crime – the Cyber Hub. It exists to prosecute offenders and protect the public, including businesses.

Cyber crime is a type of crime in which digital technology is used as a means and/or target for criminal activity.

As part of its role to protect, the Cyber Hub is helping to educate individuals and those in the business world on ways to prevent themselves from becoming vulnerable to cyber attack.

The growing cyber phenomenon means more and more businesses are dependent on internet and computer technology to store and share data, as well as making and recording financial transactions.

Increasingly, many businesses are only existent online and do not even involve the physical running of a tangible unit in order to trade.

This growth of technology, while beneficial for the smooth and cost-effective running of a business, comes with the threat of cyber criminality.

All businesses are at risk and many may have already fallen victim, but does anyone know what cyber crime actually means?

Cyber crime is not an offence in its own right, and any offences that are deemed to come under this umbrella term are investigated and prosecuted as the 'real world' versions of the crime committed.

Offences that usually form part of a cyber crime case in terms of the business world include online fraud, data theft, and hacking.

In social spheres the term can also refer to cyber bullying, cyber stalking and trolling.

Anyone suspected of committing of these offences would not, for example, be investigated for 'online fraud', but for the offence of fraud.

This is complex crime area due to the fact cyber crimes are so wide-ranging and, for businesses, can have data protection, financial and even political implications.

Additionally, in many cases business owners may not realise a crime is being committed against them – not least because many of these crimes can be done without an offender ever coming into direct contact with their victim.

A further difficulty in combatting cyber crime is the speed at which digital technology adapts and changes, providing a constant challenge for investigators to keep up.

Breaking the code

Here are some cyber crime terms which you may have heard of, but may not be sure what they mean and what risks are attached from a business perspective.

Phishing – A mainly email based fraud method in which the offender sends out legitimate-looking email in an attempt to gather personal and financial information from recipients.

Trojan (horse) – A malicious program hidden in something appearing to be legitimate.

Harvesting or Pharming – Often involving malicious code, misdirecting users to fraudulent websites without their knowledge or consent to collect personal information for use in crime.

Peer-to-Peer (P2P) – Allows a group of computer users with the same networking program to connect with each other and directly access files from one another's hard drives.

Malware – 'Malicious Software' including viruses, worms, Trojans and spyware.

Bots and Zombies – a bot is a computer infected with malware, while a zombie is a bot that can be controlled or manipulated by a hacked computer. A large group of compromised computers is called a 'botnet'.

Ransomware – software that denies you access to your files or computer until you pay a ransom.

Becoming cyber-savvy

The threat of cybercrime is growing, but so is the capability to protect against it.

Bedfordshire Police is embarking on partnerships with the National Centre for Cybercrime Research at the University of Bedfordshire, the British Computing Society, business associations including the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce and social media sites themselves to strengthen its response to the ever-changing crime.

In addition, the force's schools programme has delivered cybercrime sessions to more than 70,000 children and young people, alongside specific sessions for parents and guardians, over the last three years.

The force's newly launched Cyber Hub is dedicated to supporting and even owning criminal cases, with a comprehensive team of officers trained in digital forensics, cyber crime investigation and internet child abuse investigation.

However, while Bedfordshire Police is increasing its powers to tackle cyber crime when it occurs, the vast majority of cyber attacks on businesses can be prevented by increasing security and awareness.

Guidance from CESG, the Information Security arm of GCHQ and the national technical authority for information Assurance within the UK, forms part of BIS' 10 Steps to Cyber Security'. The recommendations include:

- **Home & Mobile Working**

Develop a mobile working policy and train staff to adhere to it. Protect data both in transit and at rest.

- **User Education & Awareness**

Produce user security policies covering acceptable and secure use of the organisation's systems. Establish a staff training programme. Maintain user awareness of the cyber risks.

- **Incident Management**

Establish an incident response and disaster recovery capability. Produce and test incident management plans. Provide specialist training to the incident management team. Report criminal incidents to police.

- **Information Risk Management Regime**

Establish an effective governance structure and determine your risk appetite – just like you would for any other risk. Produce supporting information risk management policies.

- **Managing User Privileges**

Establish account management processes and limit the number of privileged accounts. Limit user privileges and monitor user activity. Control access to activity and audit logs.

- **Removable Media Controls**

Produce a policy to control all access to removable media. Limit media types and use. Scan all media for malware before importing on to corporate systems.

- **Monitoring**

Establish a monitoring strategy and produce supporting policies. Continuously monitor all ICT systems and networks. Analyse logs for unusual activity that could indicate an attack.

- **Secure Configuration**

Apply security patches and ensure that the secure configuration is maintained. Create a system inventory and define a baseline build for all ICT devices.

- **Malware Protection**

Produce relevant policy and establish anti-malware defences that are applicable and relevant to all business areas. Scan for malware across the organisation.

- **Network Security**

Protect your networks against external and internal attack. Manage the network perimeter. Filter out unauthorised access and malicious content. Monitor and test security controls.

Further help and advice

All of the above steps are documented in more detail on the '10 Steps to Cyber Security' advice sheets produced by GCHQ, available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/395716/10_steps_ten_critical_areas.pdf

This advice goes hand-in-hand with up to date advice, guidance and tips and further resources on the new Cyber Hyb microsite which you can find here: http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/tackling_crime/cyber_crime__online_safety/advice_for_businesses.aspx

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is funding a special strand of Innovation Vouchers to help UK businesses get expert advice in protecting their business from cyber crime which could help them to achieve certification under the Cyber Essentials scheme. For more and to apply for the latest round, visit https://interact.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/RqEt2AKmEBhi/content/cyber-security-innovation-vouchers-round-13.

For more information about the Cyber Hub or further resources, contact Victoria Bull in the Bedfordshire Police communications team at victoria.bull@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk or 01234 842293.

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Protect your business
Be cyber-savvy

Bedfordshire Police has a new unit dedicated to investigating cyber crime – the Cyber Hub

Call 101 to report crime or visit our website for info on cyber security

www.bedfordshire.police.uk

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