

CYBER CRIME SENTINEL



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

Denial of Service

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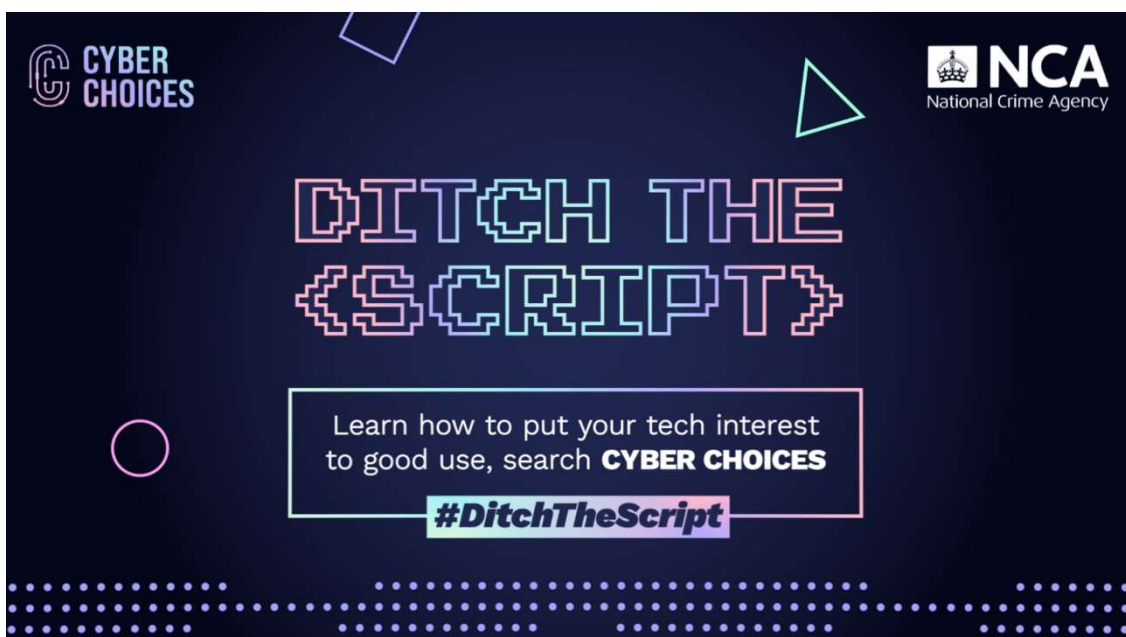
Cyber Word of the Week

In the digital world, denial of service and distributed denial of service attacks aim to make a service, website, or network unavailable by overwhelming it with traffic or disrupting its normal functioning.

Imagine you're at a library trying to read a book. In a regular denial of service attack, someone might come and snatch the book away from you, making it unavailable for you to read.

Now, in a distributed denial of service attack, it's like you're in the library, and suddenly a whole group of people, working together, start making a lot of noise, disrupting everyone and making it impossible for you to concentrate on your book. They're not just targeting you, but overwhelming the entire library with chaos, making it challenging for anyone to use the library resources.

Read the NCSC's guidance on denial of service attacks [here](#).



Ditch The <Script>

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has launched their "Ditch The Script" campaign to educate and inspire children, parents, and teachers about careers in the tech industry and Computer Misuse related offences.

It is crucial that we guide and safeguard children, providing them with the necessary tools to navigate the digital world responsibly. The campaign not only highlights the

repercussions of Computer Misuse but also showcases the abundance of positive career opportunities available in the tech industry.

Look out for our posts on LinkedIn ([@RCCU WM](#)) and X ([@ROCUWMCyber](#))

Learn more about Cyber Choices [here](#).



What's On?

Would your organisation benefit from some free cyber training? We are currently running our interactive, table top exercise 'Criminal Minds'. Delivered by police professionals, we can help make your organisation more secure.

We tailor our delivery to your organisations needs, so if there's an area of cyber you'd like us to focus on, please get in touch.

Contact us via email on: wmcyber@westmidlands.police.uk or on LinkedIn @ **RCCU WM**

We are incredibly excited to confirm that we will be exhibiting at the Photography & Video Show 2024! The show will be held at the NEC, Birmingham from 16th-19th March. Come along and chat with us about how you can strengthen your cyber security and digital awareness.

We're exhibiting at



16-19 March 2024
The NEC, Birmingham

GET TICKETS NOW

photographyshow.com

Free entry for professional photographers, filmmakers and content creators; subject to specific criteria.



Recent Cyber Headlines

THE SITE IS NOW UNDER CONTROL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

This site is now under the control of The National Crime Agency of the UK, working in close cooperation with the FBI and the international law enforcement task force, 'Operation Cronos'.

We can confirm that Lockbit's services have been disrupted as a result of International Law Enforcement action - this is an ongoing and developing operation.

Return here for more information at:
11:30 GMT on Tuesday 20th Feb.



Lockbit: UK leads disruption of major cyber-criminal gang

The UK has led an operation to disrupt what is thought to be the world's largest criminal ransomware group.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has infiltrated systems belonging to Lockbit and stolen its data.

The organisation is believed to be based in Russia and, by volume, be the most prolific ransomware group selling services to other criminals. On Monday evening, a message appeared on Lockbit's website, saying it was "now under control of law enforcement".

The operation is being billed as one of the most significant disruptions of the cyber-criminal world. The FBI, Europol and other countries have also been involved in the long-running operation but it is the first of its kind to be led by the UK.

Read more [here](#).



Top UK Universities Recovering Following

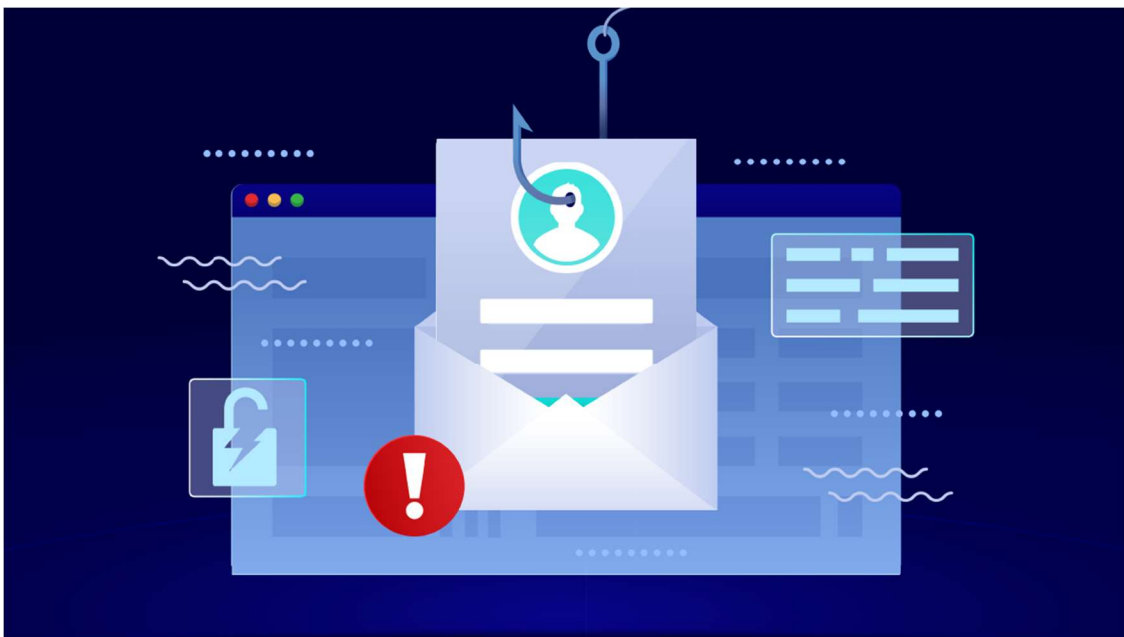
Targeted DDoS Attack

Top UK universities have had their services impacted by a DDoS attack, which has been claimed by a hacker group.

The University of Cambridge's Clinical School Computing Service revealed the incident in a post on its X (formerly Twitter) account on February 19, stating that internet access will be intermittent.

It said that the attack started at 15.00 GMT on February 19, with "multiple universities" impacted.

Read more [here](#).



SMBs at Risk From SendGrid-Focused Phishing

Tactics

Cybersecurity experts at Kaspersky have uncovered a new phishing campaign that specifically targets small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs).

The attack method involves exploiting the email service provider (ESP) SendGrid to gain access to client mailing lists, subsequently utilizing stolen credentials to send out

convincing phishing emails. These emails are crafted to appear authentic, posing a significant threat to unsuspecting recipients.

In their latest findings, Kaspersky explained that by leveraging SendGrid's infrastructure, attackers could increase the effectiveness of their phishing attempts by exploiting the trust recipients have in communications from familiar sources.

Read more [here](#).

Latest from the NCSC:

[NCSC statement on law enforcement's disruption of LockBit ransomware operation](#)



This Weeks Top Tip



Be Skeptical of Emails and Links

Be cautious when interacting with emails, especially those containing links or attachments. If in doubt verify the sender's identity before clicking on any links or downloading attachments. Phishing attacks often involve deceptive emails that mimic trusted entities to trick users into revealing sensitive information or installing malware. Hover over links to preview the URL and avoid clicking on suspicious emails. A healthy dose of scepticism can go a long way in preventing falling victim to phishing and other social engineering attacks.

Read more NCSC Guidance on phishing [here](#).



Engagement in the Community

This week, our protect team have been busy delivering demos of our Cyber Escape room to help organisations understand how we train staff

to become more cyber aware. They also attended the Black Country Chamber's networking event to offer our protect services to SMEs.

Our Prevent team have been working with young adults in interventions across the midlands, offering them support and educating them on responsible digital behaviour and the ethical use of technology.

In other news, our Sentinel newsletter has been growing over the years and reaching larger audiences. This week we were contacted by Graham.

Graham from Cross-Sector safety and Security Communications Project Director said:

“You are currently the only UK Police Service unit that is producing and cascading such a useful, valuable and relevant cyber security bulletin.”

Graham, thank you for your kind comments.

Would your employees benefit from some free cyber training? Get in touch at wmcyber@westmidlands.police.uk or via [LinkedIn](#).



Improve your business's cyber security with free membership at the Cyber Resilience Centre for the West Midlands.

With membership at the WMCRC, you will receive regular tips and guidance on how to firm up your business's cyber security.

Register to become a member (for free) today at www.wmcrc.co.uk/membership