

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.

Threat Actor

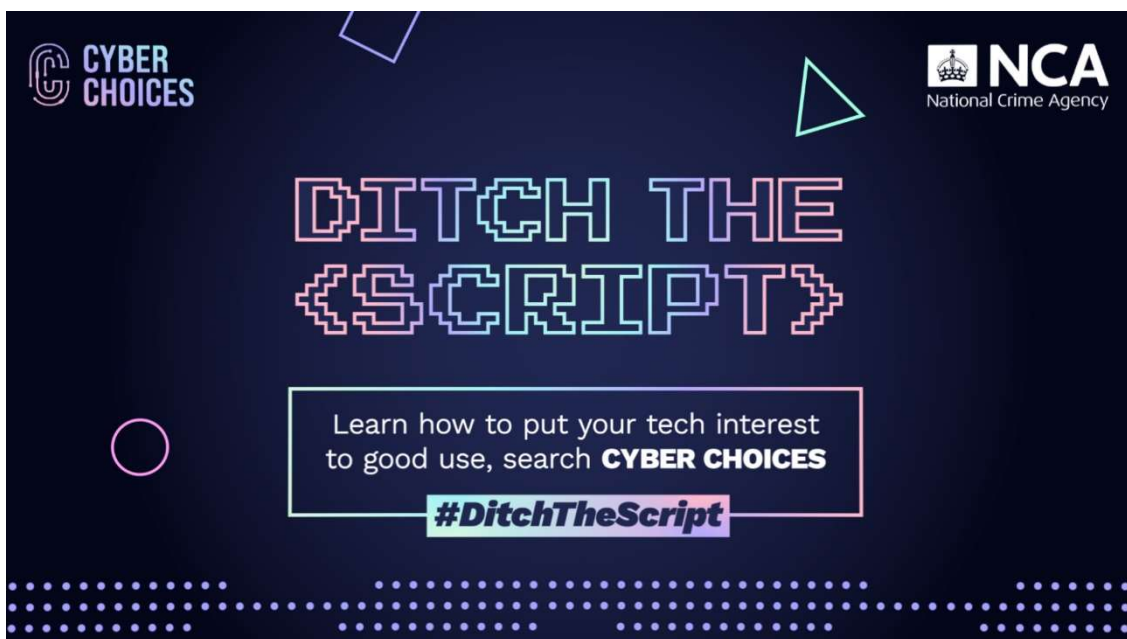
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Cyber Word of the Week

A 'threat actor' is the entity responsible for an event that has an impact on the safety of another entity. Threat actors are individuals or groups that intentionally cause harm to digital services or systems.

Threat actors primarily target large organisations for monetary gain, data, and sensitive intelligence, or to cause service disruption and reputational harm. However, small-medium enterprises may be targeted due to their lack of resources.

Read more about threat actors [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



GET TICKETS NOW

photographyshow.com

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



Recent Cyber Headlines



CyberFirst Girls Win Prizes Following Success in National Cyber Competition

Winning teams from across the UK have been recognised for their success in the CyberFirst Girls Competition. More than 50 girls attended the celebration event on the 1st March, hosted at the University of Oxford's Robotics Institute.

The girls undertook activities such as multilingual code breaking, coding and programming drones and several role-playing scenarios at the university's main engineering department.

The 2023 CyberFirst Girls Competition, which ended in December, saw more than more than 12,500 girls across the UK take part in online cyber security challenges. The competition aims to encourage girls to explore the world of cyber and technology, helping to address the lack of diversity in the UK cyber workforce, where women currently make up just 17%.

Read more [here](#).



Skype, Google Meet, and Zoom Used in New

Trojan Scam Campaign

A threat actor has been distributing remote access Trojans (RATs) on Android and Windows operating systems using online meeting lures, according to cloud security provider Zscaler.

This campaign has been ongoing since at least December 2023, observed Zscaler's threat intelligence team, ThreatLabz.

The threat actor created several fake online meeting sites, impersonating brands like Microsoft-owned Skype, Google Meet and Zoom. The attacker then utilised shared web hosting services to host all these websites on a single IP address. The first one was created in early December 2023 with a URL that resembles the legitimate Skype URL.

Read more [here](#).



New Android Patch Fixes 38 Vulnerabilities

A The latest Android update resolves 38 vulnerabilities, including two critical-severity issues in the System component.

Impacting Android 12, 12L, 13, and 14, and tracked as CVE-2024-0039 and CVE-2024-23717, the two critical flaws could lead to remote code execution and elevation of privilege, respectively.

“The most severe of these issues is a critical security vulnerability in the System component that could lead to remote code execution with no additional execution privileges needed,” Google notes in its advisory.

Ensure your Android devices are secure by installing the latest updates.

Read more [here](#).

In Other News:

[Facebook and Instagram Down on Tuesday for Millions](#)

of Users

Self-Propagating
Worm Created to
Target AI Systems

Latest from the NCSC:

UK and Allies Expose
Evolving Tactics of
Russian Threat Actors



This Weeks Top Tip



Backing Up Your Data

A backup is a copy of your important data that's stored in a separate safe location, usually on the internet or on removable media. Once you've made a backup, if you lose access to your original data, you can restore a copy of it from the backup.

If you use products from Apple, Google or Microsoft (such as Windows computers, Apple and Android phones and tablets), you'll probably have an amount of cloud storage space for free. This might be sufficient to save all your important files.

Anyone who is able to access your cloud account will also have access to your backups. Make sure you protect your account by using a strong password to control access to your account, and by turning on 2-Step Verification.

Read more NCSC Guidance on backing up your data [here](#).



Engagement in the Community

This week, our Protect team attended the Morgan Sindall IT Conference to deliver our Cyber Escape Room. We have also been at Crufts, increasing cyber awareness and providing advice to the general public.

Meanwhile, our Prevent team have exhibited at the Worcester Skills Fayre 2024. They have been continuing 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. Last 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