Eastern Region Special Operations Unit

Regional Organised Crime Unit

COVID-19 CYBER & FRAUD PROTECT MESSAGES

This advice has been collated by the East Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) and is intended for wider distribution to raise awareness among businesses and the public. Advice and information is changing daily as we navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, so please ensure you only take information from reputable sources.

If you require any further information, assistance or guidance please contact the ERSOU Protect Team CyberProtect@ERSOU.pnn.police.uk or your local Force protect team.

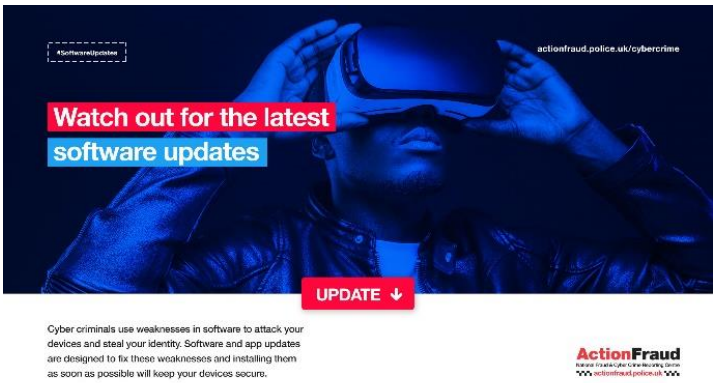
Tuesday 14th April 2020

Today's topic is 'Software'.

For many organisations with staff now working remotely the challenge to keep devices up to date is much harder.

Ensure your PC's and Devices are kept up to date in order to remain safe on line.

Software Updates fix security weaknesses and protect your device from harm.



Top Tips:

- Never ignore a prompt to update your device
- Plug your device in– you don't want lose power halfway through the update!
- Restart your device frequently to allow the updates to take effect.

How do I update my device?

- Windows: https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/help/4027667/windows-10-update
- Mac: https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT204204
- Google: https://support.google.com/android/answer/7680439?hl=en

Most PC's come with tools to automatically apply update, check that this is turned on and/or regularly check for updates.

Advice for organisations

If your organisation is using a Windows domain, ensure the Windows Server Update Service (WSUS) is configured, here.

If you don't have an on-premises network, you can use Windows Update for Business instead, here. This will enable you to configure your devices to install quality updates as soon as they are available.

You can even enrol a small number of users on the Windows Insider Programme for Business here which will allow these individuals to receive a pre-release version of Windows, giving you an opportunity to spot any problems before wider roll out.

Firmware updates can be rolled out too, and advice from the NCSC can be found here.

If your organisation has a lot of mobile devices (smartphones and tablets) it may pay to invest in mobile device management (MDM) software. This will allow updates to be pushed out to these devices and you can track to see which ones are updated.

Updates from the NCSC:

Guidance on Home Working: preparing your organisation and Phishing attacks.

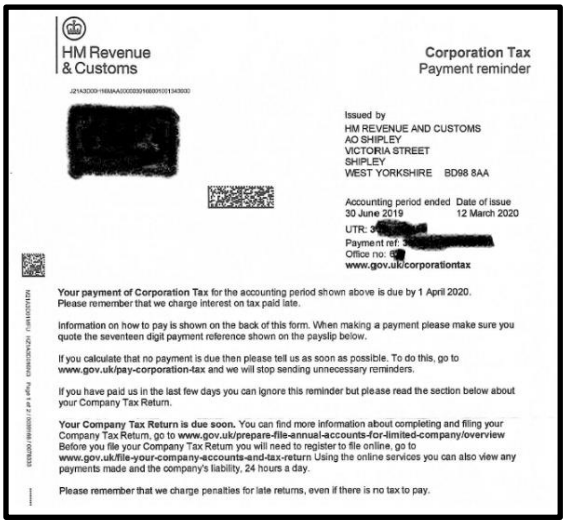
Trending

There has been an increase in scams involving working from home opportunities, as well as individuals apparently acting generously and pretending to give away tickets or discounts.

A new Windows malware has been found which calls itself "Coronavirus". The main function of Coronavirus malware is overwriting the Master Boot Record (MBR code) with the new code and wiping the device. It is also a destructive Trojan. Indicators of infection include a grey screen and a blinking cursor, accompanied by the message "Your computer has been trashed." It has been delivered in many ways - email attachments, file downloads, fake applications etc.

New HMRC scams are being reported, fraudsters demanding payments of corporation tax, claiming they are due by 1st April.

These are very official looking letters with a very good "cut and paste" please check with HMRC before making any payments and report to Action Fraud.



HM Revenue & Customs

Corporation Tax
Payment reminder

[redacted]

Issued by
HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS
AO SHIPLEY
VICTORIA STREET
SHIPLEY
WEST YORKSHIRE BD98 8AA

Accounting period ended 30 June 2019
Date of issue 12 March 2020

UTR: [redacted]
Payment ref: [redacted]
Office no: [redacted]
www.gov.uk/corporationtax

Your payment of Corporation Tax for the accounting period shown above is due by 1 April 2020. Please remember that we charge interest on tax paid late.

Information on how to pay is shown on the back of this form. When making a payment please make sure you quote the seventeen digit payment reference shown on the payslip below.

If you calculate that no payment is due then please tell us as soon as possible. To do this, go to **www.gov.uk/pay-corporation-tax** and we will stop sending unnecessary reminders.

If you have paid us in the last few days you can ignore this reminder but please read the section below about your Company Tax Return.

Your Company Tax Return is due soon. You can find more information about completing and filing your Company Tax Return, go to **www.gov.uk/prepare-file-annual-accounts-for-limited-company/overview** Before you file your Company Tax Return you will need to register to file online, go to **www.gov.uk/file-your-company-accounts-and-tax-return** Using the online services you can also view any payments made and the company's liability, 24 hours a day.

Please remember that we charge penalties for late returns, even if there is no tax to pay.

Reporting

Reporting is CRUCIAL. If you think you've been a victim of fraud report this to Action Fraud either online at or by calling 0300 123 2040.