STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

Cyber Champion Tips July 2020

Welcome to July's Top Tips, this month I thought it would be nice to start with some good news, it's always refreshing to know that our combined efforts actually do help to disrupt criminality.

Good News……

Suspicious Email Reporting Service Update

Thanks a million: British public help reach major milestone in fight against scammers…

21st April 2020 – **Launch of the Suspicious Email Reporting Service** (SERS)

22nd April 2020 – **5000** suspicious emails received in 24 hours

7th May 2020 –**160,000** suspicious emails flagged by the public in just two weeks

28th May 2020 – **672,810** suspicious emails received in six weeks

June 2020 – Suspicious emails reported to SERS tops 1 million

What does this mean? Well thanks to the 1 million reports received from the public, latest figures indicate:

- 10% of scams removed within an hour of email being reported, 40% taken down within a day of a report
- 10,200 malicious URL's linked to 3,485 individual sites have been removed

As well as taking down malicious sites, this new service supports UK policing by providing live time analysis of reports and identifying new patterns in online offending helping to stop more offenders in their tracks *NCSC.* This is fantastic news and just goes to show the huge positive impact of simply reporting suspicious emails, so thank you and keep encouraging people to forward those pesky suspicious emails in: report@phishing.gov.uk

'Man Jailed for offering fake tax refunds in COVID-19 scam

The fraudster, who has now been jailed, sent more than one thousand texts claiming to be from the authorities offering refunds to people as part of the Government's response to the pandemic. He obtained 191 sets of personal details and used 49 for fraud. The total loss to his victims was £10,019.17. One text message read: 'UKGOV: You are eligible for a Tax Refund as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please fill out the following form so that we can process your refund.*' Action Fraud*. It's fantastic news to learn of a prosecution, but it also highlights the need to Take Five, **Stop Challenge and Protect** when in receipt of unsolicited texts, emails or phone calls. Full details of this story can be viewed here: https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/man-jailed-for-offering-fake-tax-refunds-in-covid-19-scam

Online Challenges

Help keep Children and Young People Safer Online

We have received reports in Staffordshire and beyond, of approaches to youngsters through social media platforms inviting them to participate in online challenges which could potentially compromise their wellbeing and safety. It's really important our youngsters have good cyber hygiene and a good understanding of online usage and safety, to ensure they refrain from engaging with requests or invitations from persons who they do not know or trust.

It can be difficult and daunting as a parent to know the best approach to take when certain issues arise, here are some really useful resources which can support parents, educators and carers, in dealing with such situations like online challenges, if they find themselves in these situations. This link is **particularly useful for parents**:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/theres-a-viral-scare-online-what-should-i-do/

This link is **particularly useful for educators, carers and professionals**:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/advice-schools-responding-online-challenges

Useful online resources for keeping youngsters safer online:

The following websites have generic useful resources to help keep our children and young people safer online:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

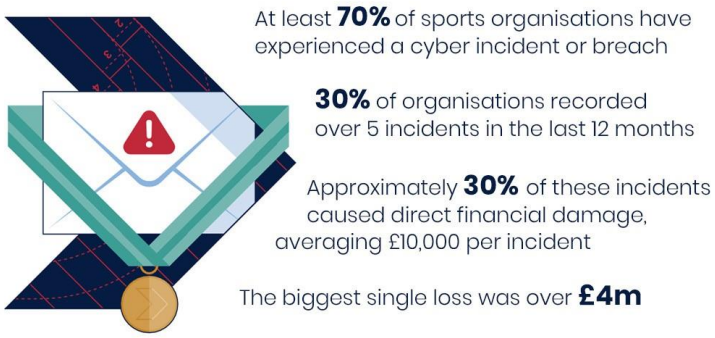
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

NCSC Updates and News:

Defences tested as cyber attackers take aim at UK sports sector

The sports sector is being encouraged to revisit and strengthen their cyber security after a recent survey revealed a range of attacks by cyber criminals. 'The National Cyber Security Centre's first ever report on threats to the sports industry has revealed it to be a high-value target – at least 70% of institutions suffer a cyber incident every 12 months, more than double the average for UK businesses' (NCSC), here are some key findings:



Could this be your organisation? If so, now is the time to bolster your cyber defences!
https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/defences-tested-as-cyber-attackers-take-aim-at-uk-sports-sector

Does Your Business Use Social Media? Protecting What You Publish

'If your organisation uses social media platforms (such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn or Instagram), it's important you take steps to reduce the likelihood of damaging content being posted on your behalf.

Social media: what is the risk?

Poorly judged content, malicious posts, or posting personal views (rather than the 'official' company line) can damage trust in organisations of all sizes. Inappropriate content within your social media channel can be at best embarrassing and at worst cause serious reputational damage. These types of content can harm organisations both large and small, and can dramatically affect your company reputation. They may even lead to your product or service being boycotted.

Social Media cont.…. The NCSC has produced guidance which explains how you can reduce the likelihood of damaging content being posted within your own social media channel. Even if you already have an established process for posting social media content, it is recommended you take a moment to review how you're using it. **The guidance is primarily for all staff responsible for setting up social media accounts**. However, all staff involved in the creation, review, approval and publication of content for social media channels will also find it useful, especially those staff involved in procurement of social media tools' *NCSC*.

You can find full details of the NCSC's social media guidance here:
https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/social-media-protect-what-you-publish

NCSC Latest threat updates:

Want to stay informed? These will help - take a look at Julys' NCSC threat reports here:

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-3rd-july-2020

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-10th-july-2020

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-17th-july-2020

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-24th-july-2020

West Midlands Regional Cyber Crime Unit:

To help you keep informed, West Midland Regional Cyber Crime Unit are providing **'Cyber Threat Weekly'** podcasts with weekly cyber updates and current information, delivered by our very own WMROCU Digital PCSO Matthew Hough-Clewes, tune in here:
https://cyberthreatweekly.buzzsprout.com/

The WMRCCU cyber website has a host of information to help boost your cyber awareness and help keep you stay informed, take a visit where you will find tips, information and advice, check it out here: www.wmcyber.org/

Further information:

cyberaware.gov.uk

www.ncsc.gov.uk/

actionfraud.police.uk/

takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/