

Web Mail Scam on the Rise

According to experts, the industry-wide phishing scam that has affected popular web mail services such as Hotmail, Yahoo and Gmail is on the rise. Infected accounts are sending personalised e-mails to contacts suggesting shopping sites, which are actually fakes. One security expert thinks victims of the scam could have been part of a so-called key-logging attack which lures people into revealing their details on fake websites. Once downloaded from infected websites, the malware can record every keystroke, including passwords or bank details.

Experts warned the public to be on their guard and advised them to verify with friends the recommendations that they sent. People are also advised to check web addresses which should read as https, with the 's' standing for secure. According to a report published by MarkMonitor, phishers were targeting payment websites and social networkers as well as traditional banking websites. Those who might have been affected by the scam should update their anti-virus software and to immediately change their passwords.

(Sourced from BBC News)

Personal Data Protection Bill to be Tabled

University Malaya law professor Abu Bakar Munir claims that several banks, insurance companies and property developers have been selling personal data to third parties. Such data can be used by others to steal a person's identity and sign up for loans or make purchases. There is currently no law to stop or curtail such activities. The bill, which has been in the works for the past nine years, calls for the Government to make it illegal for anyone to sell someone else's personal data without prior consent and comes with stiff penalties which include jail terms and hefty fines for those found guilty of breaching this condition.

According to Senator Heng Seai Kie, Deputy Information, Communications and Culture Minister 2, the drafting and enactment of a law that regulates the collection, processing and storage of people's personal data is critical to prevent people losing their money due to credit card fraud, customer-privacy infringements and data theft. Heng hopes the Personal Data Protection bill will be gazetted into law by early next year. The bill was drafted by a group that includes representatives from the Attorney-General's chambers, the former Ministry of Water, Energy and Communications, as well as the academia.

(Sourced from The Star)

Top Apicta Accolade Goes to Police SMS Service

Dapat Vista Sdn Bhd, the service provider for the Rakan-cop SMS e-community project, has won the MSC Malaysia Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance (APICTA) Prime Minister's Choice Award. The Rakan-cop service enables members of the public to SMS the police to report crimes, make enquiries on summons and even notify the police on traffic-congested areas. Dapat Vista also won the Best of e-Inclusion and e-Community APICTA Award for the service at the 10th annual Apicta awards. Dapat Vista will go on to represent Malaysia at the Apicta International 2009 awards, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, in December. Another notable APICTA award winner is the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) which won the Best of e-Government and Services Award for its mySMS 15888 service. The service allows the public to have access to Employees Provident Fund withdrawal forms, the checking and paying of traffic fines online, and other government services.

(Sourced from The Star)

Iceland Hopes to Serve the Digital World

Iceland aims to become home to the world's computing power by hosting massive and ever growing data centres containing hundreds of thousands of servers. Besides the significant power needed for the servers themselves, a large amount of energy is also required to keep them cool. Iceland is ideal as it offers a year-round cool climate and chilly fresh water. As only a fraction of this energy for cooling is needed, this translates to big savings.

Work is well advanced on the first data centre just outside Reykjavik. Demand is expected to be huge because as the number of servers around the world grows, all that energy use will also mean an increase in CO₂ production which will soon become 'unacceptably high'. The carbon savings would be enormous if a company moved its data centre to Iceland. For good connections, Iceland has also been busy laying fibre optic cables to connect the country with North America and Europe. The country hopes and believes that this will be one of her biggest industries in the next five to ten years.

(Sourced from BBC News)