SURAKSHIT - *CBEC's Information Security Newsletter*

A word from Chairperson, CBEC

The ISO27001 certification for CBEC's IT Consolidation program is an achievement we are proud of. In a centralised IT environment like ours, the need for Information Security Awareness is paramount. This is a welcome step in this direction.

Member(Computerisation) says

"Technology is great enabler, but do not allow it to be your boss. Know not only how to use it, but also how to keep the information secure. A few basic precautions is all it takes…"

Message from DG Systems

"The ISO certification marks only the beginning of our journey towards a secure information systems facility. This is not something that the Directorate of Systems can do by itself. It needs the cooperation and contribution of all CBEC personnel. Security is always a team effort and constant vigilance is the key for a secure system.

A word from CISO*

Security is not so much about technology, but attitude. In the words of Aristotle, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit". We at CBEC need to make security a habit.

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of CBEC's information security bi-annual newsletter. We see this as a platform for exchange of ideas and information related to the field of information security. We would also try to cover emerging issues, security tips and interesting news snippets, etc.

Technology has penetrated all spheres of our lives. Whether it is the way we communicate through emails and phones, the way we plan travel by booking tickets online, the way we shop or get directions through GPS enabled devices, technology has transformed our lives. Information is only a click away and is served on our plates instantly with the advent of search engines like Google. With information, comes the threat of misuse and hence the need to safeguard it through preventive controls and constant vigilance.

CBEC has been a pioneer in adopting Information Technology (IT) in the service of the taxpayer. From the ICES to ICEGATE and ACES, the journey has been marked with increasing automation across the country and making the management of IT as invisible to the user as possible, leaving them to focus on their core business functions.

CBEC is the custodian of the country's central indirect tax data across Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax. We are therefore responsible for maintaining confidentiality, integrity and availability in respect of this data.

CBEC was awarded the ISO 27001 Certification in July 2011. This however is just a starting step. We need the help and co-operation of every single user of the system, to keep our system and its data protected and safe. This news letter is a step in that direction.
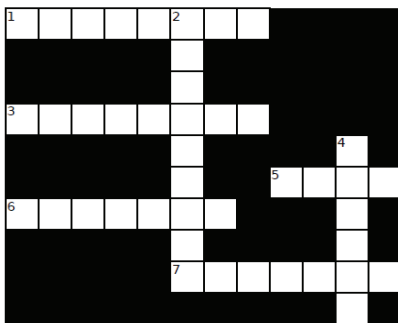
Brain Teaser-1

You might be at Risk

Don't be tricked into giving away confidential information over phone or email

Your presence on internet for a few seconds may compromise your identity and security if you are not adequately protected. Beware of any unsolicited Emails/ SMSes asking you to reveal your personal information, bank account details, ATM PINs, passwords, etc, these are most likely phishing attacks.

Phishing is an illegal activity to trick people into divulging sensitive information, such as bank and credit card accounts.

ACROSS
1. Device that stops unwanted traffic from entering a network (8)
3. Unsolicited Email that asks for your confidential personal details (8)
5. Unwanted commercial emails (4)
6. Term for all Trojan, keystroke loggers, spyware and adware (7)

ACROSS
7. A program/ device that monitors data travelling over a network (7)
DOWN
2. Software that scans your computer for infections (9)
4. One who penetrates the security defenses of a computer system (6)

* CISO- Chief Information Security Officer

Your Line of Defense

DO
- ✓ Install antivirus software and a firewall on your PC
- ✓ Use encryption to lock sensitive data on the mobile devices
- ✓ Use strong password, and change your password on a regular basis
- ✓ Clean up cache files in the browser after use of shared PCs
- ✓ Scan all email attachments for viruses before opening them
- ✓ Be cautious if you are asked for personal information
- ✓ Regularly backup your system and data, and store it securely
- ✓ Be accountable for your IT assets and data
- ✓ Stay alert and report suspicious activity

DO NOT
- X Use easily-guessed password, such as PAN card number, phone number, date of birth
- X Share your IDs with others
- X Leave your mobile computing devices unattended
- X Download or accept programs and content from unknown or untrustworthy sources or without permission of copyright owner or licensee
- X Accept unsolicited file transfers from other devices via Bluetooth, etc.
- X Visit untrustworthy sites out of curiosity, or access the URLs
- X Use illegal/ unlicensed software and programs
- X Leave sensitive information lying around the office
- X Open email attachments from unsolicited sources
- X Click on links embedded in spam mails

Recent Security BREACHES

According to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) reports, 273 Government websites were hacked in the first seven months of 2012.

"Five sites were hacked on the night of October 29 (2012) by Algerian hackers."- Director General, CERT-IN. The sites hacked included that of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Recruitment and Assessment Centre (RAC), Rehabilitation Council of India, Directorate of Estates and that of Sam Pitroda (Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information, Infrastructure and Innovations).

CERT-IN also reported defacement of local Commissionerate websites of Kolkata Customs, Meerut Central Excise, Central Excise Mumbai-V, Delhi Customs, ICD Tughlakabad. These websites were hosted on foreign servers, against the MHA guidelines.

According to CERT-IN, they handled 13,000 attacks in 2011 as compared to 8,266 in 2009. There is thus a sharp increase in the number of cyber attacks on government websites.

Gosh!!!!.....My password has been hacked...Now I have to rename my Cat

Hacked!!!

Jenny, katie, miaoow....What next?????

"Bottom line: most data thieves are professional criminals deliberately trying to steal information they can turn into cash. Like we said- same ol' story."
-2012 Data Breach Investigations Report (Verizon)

NEWS FLASH....!!!

CBEC is the WINNER of

DSCI Excellence Awards 2012 for **SECURITY IN E-Governance**

Details @ http://www.dsci.in/taxonomypage/696

SOLUTION : 1. Firewall 2. Antivirus 3. Phishing 4. Hacker 5. Spam 6. Malware 7. Sniffer

Reach Us We encourage you to come forward and provide us your feedback at cbec.ciso@icegate.gov.in