



Office of the
CHIEF INFORMATION
SECURITY OFFICER
State of Texas

National Cyber Awareness System (NCAS) Activity Alert (AA) - COVID-19 Exploited by Malicious Cyber Actors

04/08/2020

Alert Summary

A joint alert from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) was released today containing information on exploitation by cybercriminal and advanced persistent threat (APT) groups of the current coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) global pandemic. It includes a non-exhaustive list of indicators of compromise (IOCs) for detection as well as mitigation advice.

Both CISA and NCSC are seeing a growing use of COVID-19-related themes by malicious cyber actors. At the same time, the surge in teleworking has increased the use of potentially vulnerable services, such as virtual private networks (VPNs), amplifying the threat to individuals and organizations.

APT groups and cybercriminals are targeting individuals, small and medium enterprises, and large organizations with COVID-19-related scams and phishing emails. This alert provides an overview of COVID-19-related malicious cyber activity and offers practical advice that individuals and organizations can follow to reduce the risk of being impacted. The IOCs described and provided within the alert are based on analysis from CISA, NCSC, and industry.

As the situation is constantly changing and new IOCs are discovered and published every day, this alert does not attempt to catalogue all COVID-19 related malicious cyber activity that exists. Individuals and organizations should remain alert to increased activity relating to COVID-19 and take proactive steps to protect themselves.

Full Alert Details

For more detailed information, including mitigation recommendations and IOCs, please reference the AA on the US-CERT website: <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/aa20-099a>

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Assistance/Feedback/Questions?

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