Learn more about LSEG



 $\supset \equiv$

☐ My View

Following

Saved

Cybersecurity experts come together to fight coronavirus-related hacking

By Joseph Menn

March 26, 2020 3:26 AM GMT+1 · Updated 4 years ago







FILE PHOTO: A man holds a laptop computer as cyber code is projected on him in this illustration picture taken on May 13, 2017. REUTERS/Kacper Pempel/Illustration Acquire Licensing Rights [2]

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - An international group of nearly 400 volunteers with expertise in cybersecurity formed on Wednesday to fight hacking related to the novel coronavirus.

Called the COVID-19 CTI League, for cyber threat intelligence, the group spans more than 40 countries and includes professionals in senior positions at such major companies as Microsoft Corp and Amazon.com Inc.

One of four initial managers of the effort, Marc Rogers, said the top priority would be working to combat hacks against medical facilities and other frontline responders to the pandemic. It is already working on hacks of health organizations.

Also key is the defence of communication networks and services that have become essential as more people work from home, said Rogers, head of security at the long-running hacking conference Def Con and a vice president at security company Okta Inc.

The group is also using its web of contacts in internet infrastructure providers to squash garden-variety phishing attacks and another financial crime that is using the fear of COVID-19 or the desire for information on it to trick regular internet users.



 $\mathsf{Advertisement} \cdot \mathsf{Scroll} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{continue}$

"I've never seen this volume of phishing," Rogers said. "I am literally seeing phishing messages in every language known to man."

Phishing messages try to induce recipients to enter passwords or other sensitive information on websites controlled by the attackers, who then use the data to take control of bank, email or other accounts.

Rogers said the group had already dismantled one campaign that used a software vulnerability to spread malicious software. He declined to provide details, and said that in general the group would be reluctant to reveal what it was fighting.

 $\mathsf{Advertisement} \cdot \mathsf{Scroll} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{continue}$

 $Rogers\ said\ law\ enforcement\ had\ been\ surprisingly\ welcoming\ of\ the\ collaboration,\ recognising\ the\ vastness\ of\ the\ threat.$

Rogers is a UK citizen based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Two other group coordinators are American, and one is Israeli.

"I have never seen this level of cooperation," Rogers said. "I hope it continues afterwards, because it's a beautiful thing to see."

Reporting by Joseph Menn; Editing by Peter Cooney

Our Standards: $\underline{\text{The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.}}$

Acquire Licensing Rights

Read Next

Technology

Google, Meta, Qualcomm team up to push for open digital ecosystems

6:06 AM UTC

Charged

EV charger station firms battle for prime locations in Europe, US

ago

Technology

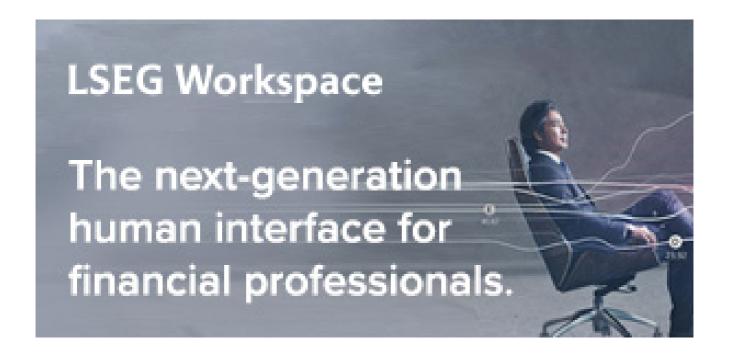
Exclusive: Apple offers to let rivals access tap-and-go tech in EU antitrust case

December 12, 2023

Cybersecurity

Ukraine's top mobile operator hit by biggest cyberattack of war

11:31 PM UTC



More from Reuters

Technology >



Superconductor claims are 'baseless' say South Korean experts

Technology · December 13, 2023 · 8:45 AM GMT+1 · an hour ago

A South Korean academic group said on Wednesday that claims by some researchers in the country that a practical superconductor had been discovered were "baseless", citing the group's

inability to replicate the results.		
Technology Netflix to squeak past Disney+ in US advertising revenue in 2024 - report December 12, 2023		
Technology Italy fines YouTube, Twitch for allegedly breaching gamble ads ban December 12, 2023		
Space Bezos' Blue Origin plans New Shepard rocket flight after 15-month ground December 12, 2023	ing	
Technology Oracle tumbles as tepid forecast fans cloud growth concerns December 12, 2023		
Latest Home Authors Topic sitemap Media Videos Pictures Graphics Graphics	Browse World Business Markets Sustainability Legal Breakingviews Technology Investigations □ Sports Science Lifestyle	Feedback
About Reuters		F 0

About Reuters 🖸

Careers ☐

Reuters News Agency 🗅

Brand Attribution Guidelines 🖸

Reuters Leadership 🗅

Reuters Fact Check 🖸

Reuters Diversity Report 🗅

Stay Informed

ownload the App (iOS) 🖸 ownload the App (Android) 🗅

Newsletters 🖸

Information you can trust

Reuters, the news and media division of Thomson Reuters, is the world's largest multimedia news provider, reaching billions of people worldwide every day. Reuters provides business, financial, national and international news to professionals via desktop terminals, the world's media organizations, industry events and directly to consumers.

Follow Us



Thomson Reuters Products

Westlaw 🛚

Build the strongest argument relying on authoritative content, attorney-editor expertise, and industry defining technology.

Onesource 🖸

The most comprehensive solution to manage all your complex and ever-expanding tax and compliance needs.

Checkpoint [2]

The industry leader for online information for tax, accounting and finance professionals.

LSEG Products

Workspace 🛚

Access unmatched financial data, news and content in a highly-customised workflow experience on desktop, web and mobile.

Data Catalogue 🖸

Browse an unrivalled portfolio of real-time and historical market data and insights from worldwide sources and experts.

World-Check 🖸

Screen for heightened risk individual and entities globally to help uncover hidden risks in business relationships and human networks.

Advertise W	ith Us 🗠	Advertis	sing Guidelin	ies 🗠	Coupons 🗠	Acc	quire Licensing R	ights 🖒			
All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. See here for a complete list of exchanges and delays.											
Cookies 🖸	Terms of	Use 🖸	Privacy 🖸	Digita	l Accessibilit	y 🖸	Corrections 🖸	Site Feedback [2]			

© 2023 Reuters. All rights reserved

