Q&A FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE JOINT CYBER SECURITY CENTRE PROGRAM?

The Joint Cyber Security Centre (JCSC) program is an initiative of the Australian Government Cyber Security Strategy. The JCSC program will further enhance cyber security collaboration between business, government and academia. It will also enhance levels of cyber security across Australia.

It involves the establishment of cyber security centres in key cities across Australia that physically co-locate participants.

WHY IS THE PROGRAM NEEDED?

The incidence of cyber security threats is on the rise. It is estimated that the cost of malicious cyber activity to the Australian economy is $1 billion annually. The JCSC program will help to improve cyber security by providing participants with a broader understanding of the threat environment, and the ability to further collaborate on cyber challenges.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

The Australian Government policy lead for cyber security is the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Under the Australian Government Cyber Security Strategy, the Attorney-General's Department (CERT Australia) has been tasked with implementing the JCSC program.

CERT Australia has engaged with key business, government, and academic stakeholders to co-design the program, the JCSC pilot and related tasking.

WHERE ARE THE CENTRES LOCATED?

The JCSC pilot was launched in Brisbane in February 2017. Additional JCSCs will be rolled out in key capital cities across Australia (Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth). The Perth JCSC will be co-located within a new CERT Australia office.

WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM?

In developing the JCSC program, CERT Australia has engaged with a broad range of partners. These partners have included Australian Government agencies, state governments, policing representatives, business (including owners and operators of critical infrastructure), industry associations and academia.

CERT Australia is finalising who will be participating in the Brisbane JCSC pilot.

WHAT TYPE OF ORGANISATIONS WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE CENTRES?

CERT Australia will be managing the JCSC offices. Relevant Australian Cyber Security Centre partner agencies will also have representatives in the centres. Involvement from businesses and academia will be shaped by the location of the JCSC, and the activities to be undertaken.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE JCSCs AND THE AUSTRALIAN CYBER SECURITY CENTRE (ACSC)?

Some ACSC partner agencies will have representatives located within the JCSCs. Participants will be able to liaise with these representatives in undertaking JCSC activities.

There will also be opportunities for JCSC participants to draw upon ACSC expertise, to help build their understanding of the cyber security environment, and work through shared challenges.

WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE PART OF THE JCSC PROGRAM?

The activities of the JCSCs will be developed in partnership between business and government. The types of activities to be undertaken will be broad ranging, from data analytics, through targeted training and workshops, to threat mapping.

Work will also commence shortly on an information sharing portal that will broaden the reach of the JCSCs.

HOW CAN SMEs GET INVOLVED IN THE JCSC PROGRAM?

Initially, engagement on the development and operation of the JCSC pilot has involved government, industry associations, and the owners and operators of critical infrastructure. This was to ensure that as broad a range of stakeholders was engaged as possible.

Once the pilot is fully operational, opportunities for engagement with SMEs will be explored. JCSC participants have indicated early interest in developing product that will help improve the cyber security of SMEs.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE JCSC PROGRAM?

Questions regarding the JCSC program, including opportunities to be involved, can be directed to CERT Australia by emailing: info@cert.gov.au or calling 1300 172 499.

An Australian Government Initiative