

Help us make the internet safer

(and have fun in the meantime)



DIVD aims to make the digital world safer by reporting vulnerabilities we find in digital systems to the people who can fix them. We have a global reach, but do it Dutch style: **open, honest, collaborative and for free**. You can help us as a partner with funding, volunteers and tools. In return, you show you care about a safer internet, allow your colleagues to collaborate with witty hackers on fun projects and learn from the best.

The case of Citrix Netscaler

How we helped 2,000 hacked and 5,700 vulnerable organisations

On July 19th 2023, DIVD took note of a new Citrix NetScaler ADC vulnerability that was being exploited by threat actors. This vulnerability had all the characteristics that scream criticality so naturally, DIVD mobilized to estimate the impact. At the time, DIVD already had a long-standing relation with the Security Research Team of cybersecurity company Fox-IT that originated from Citrix NetScaler research. Therefore, DIVD joined forces once more with Fox-IT to start a joint investigation.

This investigation resulted in two separate cases; the first one covering three vulnerabilities that resulted in 5,700 vulnerable organisations receiving a warning, and the second focusing on the organisations that did not patch in time to warn them about implants on their system put there by threat actors. Together with Fox-IT, DIVD located and warned nearly 2,000 organisations of active compromise on their systems and assisted them in remediating the situation.

During this case we also collaborated with renowned organisations like the ShadowServer Foundation, the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and BleepingComputer. The Dutch National Cyber Security Center and many GovCERTs around the world also joined to send our warning to their citizens again.



Graph by Shadow Server showing the number of affected IP addresses for each country.

DIVD is the voluntary fire brigade of the Internet

DIVD scans the whole internet on the presence of Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs) as soon as they are published and have a high score. When we find vulnerable URLs, we send them an email with notification on the vulnerability present, where we found it and what to do.

We also find new vulnerabilities (zero-days) and share these with the software vendor, so they can fix it. Furthermore, when we detect instances of compromised credentials, we take swift action by alerting affected individuals via email and urging them to immediately change their passwords. Our volunteers provide these services for free because we believe every internet user deserves to be helped.

Our statistics

2020

#cases	14
#of vulnerable IP's notified	58.358

2021

#cases	25
#of vulnerable IP's notified	99.006

2022

#cases	42
#of vulnerable IP's notified	244.788

2023

#cases	34
#of vulnerable IP's notified	285.607

You help your customers, we help theirs

Even if you patch yourself and your customers for vulnerabilities, you will experience threats from the rest of the internet that are outside your scope. As we serve the whole internet, we also help the customers and suppliers of your customers. You may perceive us as the volunteer fire brigade: as you secure your buildings, we are the ones who help your neighbors and save your house too.



Is it legal to scan and notify without informed consent?

In short: yes.

While companies and government can only do this with informed consent, the Dutch jurisprudence is clear: if you serve a societal need with appropriate means, you are allowed to perform these small hacks in order to prevent the real damaging hacks. Our way of working is approved by the Dutch Public Prosecution Office, the National Cyber Security Center and other authorities.

The Dutch Safety board even concluded in their evaluation of Citrix and other cases that digital security largely depends on volunteers like us. Also, the Dutch Minister of Justice stated during a Parliamentary debate that because DIVD is allowed to do this while the government can't, we fulfill an essential need in securing the internet. Moreover, our Code of Conduct also serves as a guideline for other security researchers who just want to help make the internet safer without getting in trouble.

DIVD is a Public Benefit Organisation

The Dutch Tax Administration agrees we do our work for the common good. We therefore received the status of ANBI: Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling, or a Public Benefit Organisation. This means your gift is tax deductible. This also counts for organisations outside The Netherlands through the GlobalGiving platform.

Why we do this on a voluntary basis

Aside from these legal, political and tax benefits, the most important reason we do this on a voluntary basis is to do good, learn and have fun with peers. Our researchers typically have a day time job in IT security, but feel the need to do a bit extra for the rest of the world. Most of them already had projects aside and joined us to scale their efforts.

At DIVD they have more liberty to start projects, get tooling and support, collaborate with like minded experts and learn from each other. Some of their employers allow them to do DIVD work during their work time and see it as their Corporate Social Responsibility. Therefore, even if your company can't support DIVD financially, you may have cool tools we can use and colleagues who want to join and help out.

Our growth ambitions

In four years, DIVD has become well equipped to have a significant impact. When new severe vulnerabilities are published we have the people and IT infra to start scanning and notifying quickly. Still, there are way more vulnerabilities than we can currently handle, so we need more CSIRT-ers and equipment. One way to scale up is to automate our processes, but we need people and resources for this. Our R&D department is also working on a continuously updated detailed view of the internet, so that we immediately know who to address once an application is vulnerable.

Meet our team



DIVD is currently run by 130 volunteers and a small paid staff. It started in 2019 with the work of hacker Victor Gevers, who was already scanning and notifying the whole world for 20 years. He was joined by Parliamentarian cybermum Astrid Oosenbrug, writer/researcher and talk show host Chris van 't Hof, CISO/hacker Frank Breedijk and Security Analyst Lennaert Oudshoorn. Soon many hackers and partners joined.

The DIVD board is now led by Inge Bryan, former leader in criminal investigations, intelligence and more recent as ceo of a cyber security company. Our core is the CSIRT, that does the scanning and notifications. They are fed by a large R&D department and supported by IT, HRM, Communication and an office. Naturally, we have many Security Officers.

[See all the job openings here](#)

How to help us help others



financial

Although DIVD is run by 130 Dutch volunteers, we do need funds to do our work. Also, as we grow, we are professionalizing our support of our volunteers by paid staff, services and tools. Our budget currently fluctuates between 100k and 200k a year. We seek stable funding for continuity and growth and are looking for sponsors to support us with recurring annual donations, starting from €1.000,- a year, or you can just donate [here](#).



services

Naturally, our organisation relies heavily on IT. Already many vendors help us out with free licenses, tools and services. No, we don't do product recommendation, or else we would lose our ANBI status and independence, but we are happy to mention you on our partnerpage. Besides IT services, many partners help us with legal, communication and organisational services.



people

Your organisation can also help with providing the most important resource of all: people. They can take on a project, or contribute to our continuous service as volunteers, but also partly in working time to shape their personal development and show their employer supports our mission and full their Corporate Social Responsibility. See all job openings [here](#).

Quotes



Mikko Hyppönen, Technology speaker and author:

“We used to think that the work of computer security experts is to secure computers. Over time we've come to realize that they actually secure our society. And that's exactly what DIVD does: they secure our society.”

Dave Maasland, CEO ESET Netherlands:

“DIVD is not a project or a regular organisation, it's a movement, one that lives by the Credo “be the change you wish to see in the world” and we need more of those to progress in the field of digital security.”

Jaya Baloo, CISO Rapid7:

“At the Dutch Institute for Vulnerability Disclosure, digital sentinels work tirelessly behind the scenes. They are unsung heroes who dedicate themselves to a safer internet, one vulnerability at a time, strengthening our cyber defenses with quiet resolve and unwavering commitment.”

Dilan Yeşilgöz, Dutch Minister of Justice and Security (Parliamentary debate on hackers):

“DIVD is really doing extraordinarily good work and we are very happy with that. The NCSC collaborates with them, where possible, and will continue doing that.”

Huntress [Donates \\$100,000 to DIVD Bug Bounty Program to Elevate SMB Cybersecurity, Calls on MSP Vendors to Follow Suit](#)

Our partners

A2B-Internet

A2B-Internet was so kind to help us out getting our own Autonomous System 50559. Since then, we have our own IP addresses to scan from. Our servers currently run from their datacenter, for just half of the normal costs.

financial

services

people

Addesium

Addesium is a philanthropic fund that supports DIVD with annual funding and organisational advice to professionalize our way of working.

financial

people

BIT

BIT is sponsoring hosting space for our websites and mail server capacity.

services

Cryptshare

Cryptshare supplies us with licenses for their tooling so we can securely share files.

services

Digital Trust Centre

Digital Trust Center, an agency of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs sponsored DIVD financially so we could hire staff.

financial

ESET

ESET sponsored DIVD from the start on with annual donations and free licenses and by paying most of the costs of our Autonomous System.

financial

services

Huntress

Huntress sponsored DIVD with a large donation and set up a sponsoring program in the US in which other US companies joined: Unveil Security Group, Blumira, Ser-vicity and MSP CFO.

financial

Linprofs

Linprofs has been helping us get our scan infra running and maintaining it ever since.

services

Our partners

NCTV

NCTV, the Dutch National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security, sponsored DIVD financially so we could hire staff.

financial

Passbolt

Passbolt has been sponsoring the pro subscription for DIVD.

services

Protect4S

Protect4S has supported DIVD with funding and expertise on the security of SAP systems and resources to scan the internet for vulnerabilities related to SAP systems.

financial

people

Schouten Zekerheid Makelaars

Schouten Zekerheid Makelaars in Assurantiën is our insurance intermediary and supports us and our cause.

services

people

SIDN Fund

SIDN Fund provided financial support ever since the start of DIVD.

financial

Schuberg Philis

Schuberg Philis has provided us with support of some of their employees and equipment we have used for our scanning infrastructure.

services

people

VMware Foundation

VMware Foundation supports DIVD with funding for new servers and people in building a new scanning infrastructure.

financial

services

people

Get in touch

Would you like to know more about DIVD, the work we do, the impact we make or would you just like to become our partner? Please do not hesitate and get in touch with our managing director, Chris van 't Hof.

Chris van 't Hof

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DIVD Family & Community

DIVD is more than just a research institute. More organisations carry our brand and share our mission in their own way. We call this the DIVD.family.

- DIVD.academy educates young hackers
- DIVD.fund for project funding
- DIVD.charity to support hackers in need
- CSIRT.global builds local chapter around the world

Also, people outside the organisations who share our mission collaborate in our DIVD.community, which is our community platform that serves as a centralized hub, providing the community and participating non-members with access to a wealth of specialized resources, expert guidance, and a collaborative environment.

Through DIVD.community, everyone can engage with a supportive community of cybersecurity experts and ethical hackers, fostering knowledge-sharing and proactive collaboration to make the digital world safer.

[**Join DIVD.Community**](#)