

The state representative for

privacy and

Freedom of Information

free

Hanseatic city

Bremen

PRESS RELEASE

Bremen/Bremerhaven,

March 23, 2021

Duty to report?! - Current critical vulnerabilities in MS Exchange

On March 5, 2021, the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) in a

Press release informed that tens of thousands of Microsoft Exchange servers of different

Versions in Germany vulnerable to security gaps and with high probability

already infected with malware. There are four vulnerabilities in the software. Microsoft

was surprisingly outside of the usual update cycle on the night of March 3, 2021

Security updates provided to close the vulnerabilities.

The BSI assumes that Microsoft Exchange Server, which will not be available until March 5, 2021

updated with the deployed security updates are compromised. Through use

The vulnerabilities can allow access to e-mail accounts and the installation of malware

come. Since the security gaps can be exploited relatively easily, it came at the latest

since the vulnerabilities became known, there have been mass, worldwide attacks against Microsoft

Exchange Server destinations worldwide.

Extensive information and

Recommendations for action, in particular for the detection of corresponding attacks

provided:

<https://www.bsi.bund.de/DE/Themen/company-and-organizations/information-and->

recommendations/recommendations-by-targets/server/microsoft-

Exchange_vulnerability/vulnerability_exchange_server_node.html

Reports to the data protection supervisory authorities

The State Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen

(LfDI) has already received a significant number of corresponding reports of violations of the

protection of personal data. It assigns all operators of

Microsoft Exchange Server infrastructures point out that - if not already done -

immediate measures to close the security gaps and to check

systems must be compromised. In addition, it points to the obligation of

Responsible (operator) according to Article 33 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

to report personal data breaches. This already applies if

Responsible: The State Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information • Arndtstraße 1 • 27570 Bremerhaven

Tel.: 0421 - 361 - 20 10 or 0471 - 596 - 20 10 •. Email address: office@datenschutz.bremen.de

a compromise has occurred - even if no leakage of personal data takes place

is or has not yet been determined. The report must be made as soon as possible

within 72 hours after becoming aware of it, a corresponding reporting form is available on the

Data protection website of the State Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information

<https://www.datenschutz.bremen.de/detail.php?gsid=bremen236.c.15665.de>.

Violations of Article 33 GDPR can be fined according to Article 83 Paragraph 4 GDPR

be punished.

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