

Report on the Recent Cyber Security Bulletins for Small Business

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1. Overview

Recent bulletins from the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCCS) highlight various cyber threats that remain highly relevant for small businesses. These include the cyber threat to major international sporting events, cyber threat activity related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and a reminder for Canadian critical infrastructure operators to be vigilant against Russian-backed cyber threat activities. While these might appear to be targeted at larger organisations and/or specific sectors, their implications can be significant for small businesses.

2. Relevance

a. Major International Sporting Events

Small businesses may not perceive the relevance of cyber threats to international sporting events. However, due to the increase in traffic, or possible links to the major events (supply, etc.) even small businesses may be targeted for attack for direct gain or even as an attack access point to a larger target. (CCCS, Cyber threat to major international sporting events, 2024),

b. The Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Small businesses can be collateral damage in larger geopolitical cyber conflicts. Cyberattacks are not confined by borders and can affect any organisation with weak defences. These attacks are typically phishing and ransomware. They remain common threats to small businesses around the world. For events such as this one, it remains important to not be overly swayed by hype and potential mis-information passed down by the media. Focus on a broader view for these potential threats and not focus on “the current thing” while implementing consistent security practices regardless of the news. Evaluate information critically and prioritise actions based on comprehensive risk assessments. (CCCS, Russian invasion of Ukraine, 2022)

c. Canadian Critical Infrastructure Operators

Even if your small business is not directly a part of critical infrastructure, the interconnected nature of the digital and real-life ecosystem means vulnerabilities can propagate through various channels, impacting small businesses. Staying informed about prevalent threats and implementing

recommended mitigations can enhance a business's security posture. It is important to understand the flow of critical infrastructure and how it can impact your small business and how you can work around such potential failure points. (CCCS, Critical infrastructure awareness, n.d.), (Bobin, DHS, 2024), (Rich, Michigan State Police, 2024)

3. Conclusion

While the recent bulletins from the CCCS might initially seem more relevant to larger organisations the cybersecurity principles outlined are vital for small businesses protection as well. Implementing recommended practices from these bulletins can significantly reduce a small business's cybersecurity risk.

4. References

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- CCCS. (2024, May 31). *Cyber threat bulletin: The cyber threat to major international sporting events*. Canadian Centre for Cyber Security. Retrieved July 3, 2024, from <https://www.cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/cyber-threat-bulletin-cyber-threat-major-international-sporting-events>
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