

Online Safety Update

Created for all Northumberland Senso Safeguarding Users

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Seaton Delaval First School Mail - Fwd: Online Safety Update

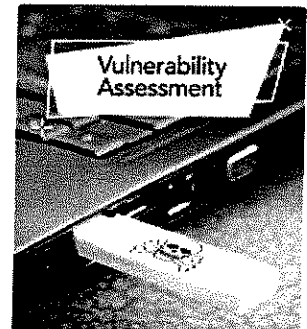
Keeping your network safe - an offer from Northumbria Police

As you will be aware, organisations such as schools are at a heightened risk of experiencing a cyber security incident during the COVID-19 outbreak.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/security-agencies-issue-covid-19-cyber-threat-update>

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/tech-and-science/technology/fbi-warns-schools-of-cyber-threats-during-covid-19-crisis/article/570466>

We have received the following information from a colleague at NERSOU: Please ensure the relevant staff in school are aware of this valuable opportunity to undertake a free vulnerability assessment and help ensure your network is safe and secure.



For more information email:
cyber@northumbria.police.uk

NERSOU
NORTH EAST REGIONAL SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT

w@terstons
Business & IT Consultancy



Afternoon,

I am a member of the North East Regional Cyber Crime Unit, part of a team with a primary objective of engaging with businesses; organisations and communities to provide advice and guidance to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of common cyber attacks.

During this unprecedented time, when we are all busy dealing with the demands of Covid-19, the last thing anyone wants is to become a victim of cybercrime. Although the most common way for criminals to attack is by sending malicious emails to try and get people to click on a link or download an attachment, there are those that will still try and take advantage of weak or insecure networks.

Northumbria Police are still offering a free Vulnerability Assessment to all businesses and organisations across the North East (Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria). Using Nessus, which is industry recognised software, they will scan public facing IP addresses and look for any weaknesses or vulnerabilities that could be exploited by the bad guys.

This may be more relevant than ever with changes to networks to allow for and/or increased 'working from home'. The Vulnerability Assessment is done remotely, so there is no need for anyone to be in the office or for anyone to attend your premises. The scan should not affect any systems and can be done at any time.

Although you may conduct your own vulnerability assessment, this service is also available to all your third party agencies and suppliers based in the North East that, if affected, could also affect your systems and operation. Please provide them with this information.

To arrange for a Vulnerability Assessment or to find out further information, please email: cybervolunteers@northumbria.pnn.police.uk

If you have any questions or queries, my contact details are below:

Kindest regards

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Why are police offering this service?

Simply put we want to have fewer victims of crime, all too often we see businesses fall victim to untargeted attacks were the criminals have found a well-known vulnerability which can be easily exploited. Criminals are constantly using software to scan the internet looking for easy targets, e.g vulnerable and out of date systems. By offering this service we hope to find some of these vulnerabilities before they do, so you can take the appropriate action to defend your network.

Who will be performing this service?

Northumbria Police have recruited skilled volunteers who have the aptitude, skill set and appropriate training to undertake Network Vulnerability Assessments. The volunteers, will work alongside Waterstones, an IT and business consultancy based here in the North East, to produce a vulnerability report, highlighting potential weaknesses in your internet facing systems and infrastructure. All volunteers have undertaken a selection and vetting process, they will be working out of police premises and will handle your vulnerability report in confidence.

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Who can apply for this service?

At present time the service is restricted to North East businesses only, covered by the Durham, Cleveland and Northumbria Police areas.

What are the advantages of using this service?

You can reduce the chances of your business becoming a victim of common untargeted cyber-attacks. It can help you work towards accreditations like Cyber Essentials and ISO27001 which demonstrate your organisation is taking cyber security seriously, and you're taking steps to protect the data you hold.

How will the assessment be conducted?

By providing some technical information to the volunteers, this assessment can be conducted, remotely – meaning nobody needs to be physically present on your business premises and the assessment can occur at any time of the day.

What is the assessment?

The vulnerability assessment offered uses an industry recognised software package. To obtain such a scan from the private sector could incur a cost. This is not a penetration test, but a basic assessment of a limited scope of systems (i.e. internet facing systems like firewalls, mail servers, etc, not user workstations or internal systems) – it doesn't give protection against complex or persistent attacks, but does give an overview of the network security weaknesses that could be exploited by criminals on the internet.

Important action if your school becomes infected by malware


If you believe your school may have been infected with malware, these steps may help limit the impact of the infection.

1. Immediately disconnect the infected computers, laptops or tablets from all network connections, whether wired, wireless or mobile phone based.
2. Consider whether turning off your Wi-Fi and disabling any core network connections (including switches) might be necessary in a very serious case.
3. Seek technical support immediately from the NCC helpdesk (01670 627004), and by sending an email to itsecurity@northumberland.gov.uk




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