TRAFICOM

Finnish Transport and Communications Agency
National Cyber Security Centre

Cyber weather

March 2023

#cyberweather

Cyber weather gives you an update on the key information security incidents and phenomena of the month.

The product is primarily targeted at those who work with information security issues at different levels of organisations. Cyber weather gives readers a quick overview of recent and upcoming events in the field of cyber security.

Cyber weather can be: calm   worrying   serious

Cyber weather, March 2023

Data breaches and leaks

- The number of data breach reports increased in March by approximately 35% compared to the average level during the first months of the year.
- High numbers of social media accounts continue to be hacked under the guise of fake competitions.

Scams and phishing

- March got off to a bad start with rent scams. Thousands of people in Finland received text messages about unpaid rent.
- "Hi mom" SMS scams were continued with "Hi dad" messages. The scammer pretends to be the SMS recipient's child with a broken mobile phone and asks for money.

Malware and vulnerabilities

- Supply chain attack against the voice and video conferencing app 3CXDesktopApp.
- Critical vulnerability in Microsoft Outlook.
- Apple released patches to critical vulnerabilities in several of its products.

Automation and IoT

- Events on cyber security requirements for smart products and the development of related regulation continue on 18 April in Tampere and 25 April in Jyväskylä. Traficom organises the events together with local operators.

Network performance

- Seven significant disturbances in public telecommunications services in March.
- Disturbances were caused by the implementation of updates and changes, for example.
- The number of denial-of-service attacks was normal in March. A few attacks affected the availability of websites or services.

Spying

- Supply chain attacks and vulnerability exploits remained popular tools also for state actors.
- The supply chain attack against 3CXDesktopApp and cases exploiting a critical vulnerability in Outlook were reportedly connected to state actors.

NCSC-FI's tips and recommendations for improving cyber security preparedness:

By the end of March, approximately EUR 2.5 million in support for the development of information security had been granted to 102 companies. Support will be granted for as long as there is funding available. An appropriation of EUR 6 million has been reserved for the purpose.

The NCSC-FI participates in a joint awareness raising campaign by Finnish authorities and companies. The purpose of the *Varo, varmista, varoita* campaign is to warn people about online scams and phishing and to remind them that scams can be avoided.

The NCSC-FI's latest feasibility study project called Ketjutonttu helps Finnish companies and their suppliers manage cyber risks associated with supply chains.

Overview of cyber weather in March

▶ In March, we received numerous reports about data breaches and their attempts. The number of reports was significantly higher than in February.

▶ At the beginning of the month, we received several reports about successful or attempted CEO scams. Based on the information received, no financial losses were incurred.

▶ In March, denial-of-service attacks were reported in various sectors, but the attacks were short and only had minor effects.

▶ We also received reports about the malware Emotet after a long break. In the reported cases, attackers tried to spread the malware by sending email with OneNote attachments.

Cyber security trends
in the past 12 months

1 mo.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Data breaches and leaks	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	⛅	⛅	⛈️
Scams and phishing	⛈️	⛈️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	⛈️
Malware and vulnerabilities	🌧️	⛅	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	⛅	🌧️	🌧️
Automation & IoT	🌧️	⛅	🌧️	🌧️	☀️	☀️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	☀️	☀️	☀️
Network performance	🌧️	☀️	🌧️	⛅	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	⛅	⛅	🌧️
Spying	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	🌧️	⛈️	🌧️

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