TRAFICOM

Finnish Transport and Communications Agency
National Cyber Security Centre

Cyber weather

September 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, September 2023

Data breaches and leaks

▶ Due to the public Essity/Westlog data breach, we received notifications of leaked data.

▶ Social media account hacks have also seen misuse of credit cards stored in the systems, for example by buying advertisements.

Scams and phishing

▶ A record number of scam calls were made from fake numbers in September.

▶ Phishing for online banking details moved from text messages to e-mail again.

▶ Invoicing scams were used to try to scam organisations from fishing clubs to local history societies.

Malware and vulnerabilities

▶ A critical and remote vulnerability in the libwebp library requires immediate updating. The library is in use, among other things, in several web browsers.

Automation and IoT

▶ NIST has updated its guideline 800-82, which focuses on the protection of industrial automation environments.

▶ The new version takes into account e.g. changed cybersecurity threats of production environments, protection tools, recommended practices and architectures.

Network performance

▶ There were two significant disturbances in public telecommunications services in September.

▶ Hacktivists continue denial of service attacks and domestic organisations have received their share of these attacks.

▶ Denial of service attacks have not had serious effects on the availability of services.

Spying

▶ Microsoft's report, published every six months, describes the trend of cyber operations in East Asia.

▶ Microsoft's report tells, for example, about cyber espionage and influence operations linked to China, as well as North Korea's data collection and the acquisition of cryptocurrencies.

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

In September, the National Cyber Security Centre Finland's theme month was Become Familiar with Information Security Phenomena. During the month, we presented the most common information security threats on our social media channels and talked about how to protect against them.

We published a new instruction on the management of deviations in the cloud environment.

In September, the Hyöky service aimed at municipalities was published, which allows you to map the municipality's attack surface in public networks.

Overview of cyber weather in September

▶ At the start of September, a hacktivist group announced they had attacked several European cyber security authorities.

  ▶ National Cyber Security Centre Finland at the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom was one of the announced targets.

  ▶ The effect of denial-of-service attacks is usually temporary in the service functionality. They have often been compared to a traffic jam or a protest carried out online, the goal of which is to create news.

▶ There were a large number of reports of scam calls from fake numbers in September. At the beginning of October, Traficom's regulation came into force, which obliges telecom operators to reject calls from abroad that are faked as Finnish numbers, also for mobile numbers.

▶ During the past month, the number of notifications received by the National Cyber Security Centre Finland about data breaches, data breach attempts and data leaks has decreased.

Cyber security trends
in the past 12 months

1 mo.

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