

News release

Enhancing analytical, investigative and response skills for cyber security incidents

Ho Chi Minh City, 28 November 2018 – The Vietnam Computer Emergency Response Teams (VNCERT) and PwC Vietnam today co-organised a cyber security drill titled “Enhancing analytical, investigative and response skills to deal with cyber security incidents” in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Da Nang.

The drill attracted over 100 participants, including IT and cyber security leaders and professionals from member agencies of the nationwide network for cyber security emergency response, provincial Departments of Information and Communications, as well as organisations currently operating critical information systems in the Southern region. The event was held in association with the International Data Group (IDG), the Authority of Central Post, the Authority of Radio Frequency, and the Office of the Ministry of Information and Communications.

The participating teams in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Da Nang were tasked with responding to an APT (Advanced Persistent Threat) attack. The teams had to analyse and investigate the problem, thereby identifying the source of the attack, the list of IP addresses that the malware was connected to, and the vulnerabilities and attack techniques used to penetrate the system. Based on that, they were able to determine the severity and impacts of the attack. By employing realistic attack scenarios, the drill provided the participants with important skills that are highly practical.

Mr. Nguyen Khac Lich, head of the organising committee said: "What sets this drill apart is that it was designed as a competition, in which the technical professionals could exchange knowledge and experiences, improve their skills, and win meaningful awards from the organising committee. Using an automatic evaluation and scoring system, the organising committee has selected three top teams representing the three regions of the country."

Active cooperation to improve cyber security incident response capabilities

As per the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1622/QD-TTg dated 25 October 2017 on "Boosting the operations of the network for cyber security emergency response and capacity building for professional cyber security incident response teams until 2020 with a vision to 2025",

VNCERT's emphasis is on being the national coordinator for incident response. "As the coordinator of cyber security incident response activities throughout the country, VNCERT regularly puts a focus on international drills and exercises to improve the capabilities of information security technical staff in all organisations," said Mr. Nguyen Trong Duong, Director of VNCERT.

Highlights include the ASEAN CERTs Incident Drill (ACID), Asia- Pacific CERTs (APCERT) Drill, and the ASEAN-Japan Drill, held annually on a nationwide scale in the Northern, Central and Southern regions of Vietnam. Most recently, in June 2018, a large-scale cyber incident response drill was organised for the first time ever in the Central Highlands region.

Previously, in January 2018, VNCERT entered into a strategic partnership in cyber security incident response for 2018-2020 with PwC Vietnam – a member of the PwC network of professional services firms, which has a presence in 158 countries across the world.

Accordingly, PwC Vietnam and VNCERT will work together to strengthen training activities to raise the capabilities for timely response to information security incidents in Vietnamese organisations; further develop the market of information security services; and exchange information on new information security incidents, threats and attacks.

Mr. Robert Trong Tran – Cyber Security and Privacy Lead at PwC Vietnam said, "When detection and prevention both fail, incident response emerges as the last line of defense for the network, helping to minimise damage to organisations under attack. Through drills and knowledge exchange activities, we wish to share our global experience and capabilities to contribute to developing the people, processes and technologies needed to effectively respond to information security incidents in Vietnam."

Perils from APT attacks

First appearing in 2010-2011, APT attacks have been at the forefront of cyber security threats due to their sophisticated, continuous methods, ranging from highly technical to social engineering attacks. APT attacks have produced variants that can bypass safety and security solutions, causing significant damage, especially to critical infrastructure.

VNCERT's statistics show that as of the end Quarter 3/2018, there had been 8,319 network attacks in Vietnam, including 1,575 malware cases, 4,829 deface cases, and 1,915 phishing attacks.

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