
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ZICTA'S PRESS STATEMENT ON THE RECENT RANSOMWARE CYBER ATTACK

In light of the May 12, 2017 cyber-attack which affected numerous computers in over 100 countries demanding ransom payments in bitcoin currency, the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) would like to inform the nation that the Authority is aware of the attacks and continues to closely monitor the sector working with other government agencies to ensure maximum national security.

- The WannaCry Ransomware virus possesses the capability to spread itself as a so-called worm, beside the fact that the ransomware starts encrypting possible important data on systems. This means on an organization computer network, the initial infection would not only impact one system, but potentially a large amount of systems in the internal network as well. This might result in your business processes coming to a grinding halt.
- The system vulnerability affects all versions of Windows, which have not yet been updated as of 14th March 2017, except for Windows 10 and Windows Server 2016, as they are already protected in the default configuration.

The Authority would therefore, like to urge members of the public (consumers of the ICT services) to URGENTLY update their Operating System(OS) versions on all their computer systems running MICROSOFT WINDOWS OS to avoid the ransomware virus attack.

We encourage members of the public to be alert and immediately inform ZICTA by calling 7070 if are affected by the aforementioned cyber-attack.

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