

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN**  
**TARIKH: 2 NOVEMBER 2016 (RABU)**

<b>Bil</b>	<b>Tajuk</b>	<b>Akhbar</b>
1.	'Ransomware' hacking on the rise	The Star
2.	Raising the alert on cybersecurity	New Straits Times
3.	JAS Negeri Sembilan siasat kilang-kilang buang sisa cecair kimia ke parit sekitar Nilai	BERNAMA
4.	Flash floods wreak havoc in Penang	The Star

## 'Ransomware' hacking on the rise

THERE have been over 40 cases of sensitive government computer databases being hacked over the past two years.

Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah highlighted the alarming figure when he said there was a sharp spike in computer hacking cases detected by CyberSecurity Malaysia (MyCert).

"There were only three cases detected by MyCert in 2014. One involving Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII)

and two involving corporate companies in the country.

"However, the number skyrocketed to shocking 20 cases involving CNII, 43 cases involving corporate companies, three higher learning institutions and 21 home users in 2015," he said when answering a question raised by Datuk Nawawi Ahmad (BN-Langkawi) at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He added that in 2016, there were 23 cases involving CNII recorded, 18 cases involving corporate companies, three universities and six

home users.

He explained that "ransomware" has been on the rise since 2015.

He said victims' computers were infected by the malicious software designed to block access to the computer system until a sum of money was paid.

"Hackers take over the system before blackmailing the victim," he said, adding that MyCert and the authorities, namely Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the police cyber crime unit, were going after the offenders.

**KERATAN AKHBAR**  
**NEW STRAITS TIMES (COMMENT) : MUKA SURAT 14 & 15**  
**TARIKH : 2 NOVEMBER 2016 (RABU)**

# Raising the alert on cybersecurity

**CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER:** 70pc of our smart appliances have security weaknesses that can expose us to cyber crooks

**A**T the United States presidential debate recently, both candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were asked how they would address cybersecurity challenges and the growing international threats online.

Clinton stressed on the need for firm national resolve as she pins blame on certain countries and terrorist groups, while Trump argued that perpetrators could be anyone, including individuals launching attacks from the comfort of their homes. Whatever the argument is, cybersecurity and cyber risks have indeed become a global concern over the past few years.

As the world becomes smaller and

more connected, the threat of falling victim to cyberattacks remains a clear and present danger. Governments are putting in more resources, allocations and coherent cybersecurity strategies to combat increasingly dangerous cyberattacks.

On the home front, it was reported that the armed forces' military intelligence unit has set up a cyber defence special unit to tackle cyber warfare attempts against the country.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein was quoted as saying that Malaysia's sophisticated cyber defence system is expected to be among the best in the region when completed. While cyberspace continues to evolve, cybersecurity continues to become an increasing concern. Cyber crooks are everywhere. They may even be right in your living room as we speak, without us even realising it!

In this Internet age, we are vulnerable to losing more than just our pri-

vacy, but also valuable personal information.

Earlier this year, Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg made headlines when he applied a piece of tape over his web cam as a protection against potential cyber spies! Whether you're an ordinary person or a multi-billionaire, no one is safe these days from cyber perpetrators, not even in the comfort of your living room.

One incident last week sparked more awareness on the cyber world. There was a staggering Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack on a Domain Name Server (DNS) located somewhere in cyberspace. The attack basically tanked any site that uses the DNS. These kinds of DDoS attacks are becoming more prevalent and destructive over the years. As Internet infrastructure grows and the world becomes more connected, so do these massive cyberspace attacks.

The latest attack was identified to be caused by Mirai botnets, a type of malware that hacked Internet of Things (IoT) devices, such as close-circuit television cameras and digital video recorders to launch a massive and sustained Internet attack that caused outages and network congestion for a large number of web sites.

This attack highlights the appar-

ent security flaws in such devices, which is quite alarming, as more of these devices get into our homes and workplaces, and may become part of our lives in the future. A simple and normal IoT device, such as your smart refrigerator or television, may succumb to cyber hacking and cause problems. While it may sound a bit farfetched to some, it is wise not to rule out the potential danger.

From a recent security assessment study by Hewlett Packard on IoT, more of such devices are connected through WiFi and social media networks, and these devices consist of daily sensitive information about our lives and personal data. HP's study concluded that 70 per cent of our smart appliances have serious security weaknesses that can expose us to cyber crooks looking for opportunities to gain access to our personal information and finances.

Cybersecurity is a bigger concern than we may realise. According to statistics provided by MyCERT (Malaysia Computer Emergency Response Team, which operates under CyberSecurity Malaysia), there were over 2.7 million counts of botnet attacks by unique Internet protocols (IPs) last year.

Other statistics revealed that more than 9,000 counts of cybersecurity issues were reported in Malaysia last year, such as cyber harassment, fraud, intrusion, malicious codes, denial of service, content related and spam.

The chief executive officer of CyberSecurity Malaysia, Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab, recently said the agency has several key milestones to reach by 2020. The goal is to globalise CyberSecurity Malaysia, expand and engage initiatives through bilateral and multilateral cooperation with local and international agencies to strengthen the nation's cybersecurity strategies.

The more we engage globally with other international cybersecurity forces, the better our chances to protect the nation and people from cyberattacks.

Cybersecurity should be everyone's responsibility. While the government, through the relevant agencies are putting in place protective cybersecurity measures and strategies at the national level, it still demands a united effort from the people to counter the cyber menace.

The Internet age may have brought many conveniences, but it is still a vast, unregulated space where many bad elements are lurking in dark corners to inflict damage and misery.

It doesn't, however, mean that we should live in constant fear. But, just like in the real world, we need to be extra alert and take precautions, while reaping the wonderful benefits that the Internet age brings.

[kushairi@mediaprima.com.my](mailto:kushairi@mediaprima.com.my)

The writer is editor of BOTs, the weekly tech section in Life&Times. Trained in Maths, he has since traded his problem-solving skills with writing about how tech has helped to transform the world for the better



FIRSTBYTE

AHMAD KUSHAIRI



**Cybersecurity is a big concern.** Issues include cyber harassment, fraud, intrusion and spam.





## **JAS Negeri Sembilan Siasat Kilang-Kilang Buang Sisa Cecair Kimia Ke Parit Sekitar Nilai**

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Nov (Bernama) -- Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) Negeri Sembilan sedang membuat siasatan ke atas beberapa buah kilang di Nilai, Negeri Sembilan yang dikesan membuang sisa cecair kimia ke dalam parit seterusnya mengalir ke Sungai Batang Benar, semalam.

Pengarahnya, Norhazli Mat Sair berkata pihaknya telah menerima aduan daripada penduduk sekitar kawasan perindustrian Nilai 7 dan Arab Malaysian Industrial Park mengenai pelepasan sisa kilang yang menyebabkan bau busuk itu.

"Berdasarkan rekod, kilang-kilang yang melepaskan sisa cecair itu tidak pernah melakukan perkara itu sebelum ini dan ia merupakan kali pertama yang kami kesan selepas menerima aduan daripada orang awam pada dua hari lepas.

"Selepas menerima aduan itu, pegawai-pegawai JAS dan Jabatan Kimia telah turun padang untuk meninjau kawasan itu termasuk memerhati pengoperasian kilang-kilang yang terlibat dan mengambil sampel air dari parit dan sungai," katanya ketika dihubungi Bernama hari ini.

Semalam, Bernama mendedahkan cecair berbuih berbau busuk dilepaskan dari beberapa buah kilang sekitar Nilai dan Semenyih yang mengalir ke sungai seterusnya menyebabkan pencemaran yang mengakibatkan Loji Rawatan Air Semenyih ditutup.

Hasil tinjauan turut mendapati aliran Sungai Batang Benar berhampiran kediaman penduduk di Kampung Batang Benar dipenuhi cecair gelap berbuih yang begitu busuk, selain mengandungi sampah sarap.

Menurut Norhazli, notis amaran telah dikeluarkan kepada kilang-kilang terlibat berdasarkan aduan orang awam mengenai pelepasan sisa cecair ke dalam parit.

"Antara kilang-kilang terlibat termasuk sebuah kilang memproses plastik kitar semula dan kilang besi di Arab Malaysian Industrial Park," katanya.

Katanya siasatan ke atas kilang-kilang perindustrian ke atas pembuangan sisa itu dijalankan di bawah Seksyen 25 Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling 1974.

"Kami mengambil kira kaedah pengoperasian kilang-kilang yang terlibat, kandungan sisa cecair yang dilepaskan untuk dihantar ke **Jabatan Kimia** dan (kesan ke atas) penduduk kampung yang terjejas akibat pencemaran sungai, barulah laporan siasatan itu akan dikeluarkan.

Kami tidak akan teragak-agak untuk mengambil tindakan ke atas mana-mana kilang yang membuang sisa cecair kimia yang menyebabkan pencemaran sungai sekiranya hasil siasatan itu didapati positif bahan kimia yang membahayakan kesihatan manusia," katanya.

-- BERNAMA

## Flash floods wreak havoc in Penang

**GEORGE TOWN:** Heavy rains brought by the northeast monsoon continue to lash Penang, which was hit by floods on Deepavali day.

After residents in Bandar Baru Air Itam, Taman Lumba Kuda and Jalan P. Ramlee bore the brunt of the torrential rain on Saturday, it was the turn of those living in Batu Maung and Permatang Damar Laut.

Continuous rain from 3am yesterday caused the water level to rise to a metre in Batu Maung, affecting more than 30 houses.

Penang Civil Defence Department operations officer Muhammad Aizat Abdul Ghani said 10 personnel rushed to the scene to help.

"However, water had receded by then and there was no immediate danger to the residents," he added.

Muhammad Aizat said Penang Island City Council workers helped to clear the debris in flood-hit houses.

Public Works Department direc-

tor Salleh Awang said the water from the hills had overflowed from the retention pond of a housing project and discharged into the drains along the road.

"The water was supposed to be retained in the pond. The drains along Jalan Batu Maung have not been completed because of the project," he said yesterday.

Salleh added that the road upgrading project was scheduled to be completed by end of next year.

A Penang Meteorological Department spokesman said rain over the past few days was the result of the northeast monsoon.

"The rain on Saturday was evident as the winds were blowing in the north and bringing rain in the evening," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the Kek Lok Si Temple has refuted news that the temple was closed to the public.

Temple trustee Datuk Steven Ooi said the temple was open as usual.