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Meeting Minutes  
Subcommittee on Public Affairs and Outreach  
Friday, May 19, 2023  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting

Attendance (2/3)

Subcommittee members participating: Sue Rogan (Chair) and Dr. Anton Dahbura.

Staff

Howard Barr (Assistant Attorney General & Principal Counsel Office of the Attorney General, Department of Information Technology) and Dr. Greg von Lehmen (University of Maryland Global Campus, Staff to the Council)

Meeting Opening

1. The chair thanked subcommittee member, Dr. Dahbura, for joining the meeting and Mr. Barr for representing the Office of the Attorney General.
2. Dr. Von Lehmen declared that there was a quorum present.
3. Ms. Rogan called for the minutes of the June 22, 2022, meeting, which she and Dr. Dahbura approved.
4. The subcommittee then turned to old business, specifically, the adult cyber hygiene survey that it had sponsored and that Johns Hopkins and the National Cryptologic Foundation had funded through grants.

Old Business

1. Dr. Dahbura recapped that the survey was conducted on Mechanical Turk (MTurk) from October 2022 through February 2023. He noted that 549 participants completed the survey during this period. The survey construction has been led by Joe Carrigan at the Johns Hopkins Information Security Institute. The analysis of survey response data was conducted by Jamie Stelnick, a student at the university.
2. Dr. Dahbura guided the committee through an extensive slide presentation of the data analysis. He cautioned that the analysis was preliminary and that the survey was not random, limiting its use for inferences to the general adult population. The following were the main findings:
  - a) The survey participants were more educated compared to the general State population. In Maryland, about 23% of residents have a bachelor's degree and less than 20% have a graduate degree. Of the survey participants, more than 47% of participants have a bachelor's degree and over 29% have a graduate degree.
  - b) The survey population were self-assured in their knowledge of cyber hygiene. 89.61% of survey participants self-assessed as confident with their computer skills and 74.5% of participants self-assessed as knowledgeable about cybersecurity.

- c) This self-assurance was over confidence. Despite higher than average education and confidence in their cyber hygiene knowledge, not a single respondent out of the 549 participants was able to correctly answer all four of the multiple-choice security questions. Moreover, 12.11% of participants did not answer any of the questions correctly.
  - d) A significant proportion of respondents claimed to have been the victim of an online scam. Nearly 1 in 4 respondents (23.32%) said they have lost money to an online scam. The average loss was \$3,320. This average includes two respondents who reported losing \$100,000 each.
  - e) A significant proportion of respondents do not practice good password hygiene. 10% of participants use the same password for all of their accounts and over 20% use the same password for most of their accounts.
  - f) The findings suggest a lack of awareness by respondents about how compromised their personal identifying information is. Over 45% of people stated that their personal information has been disclosed to unauthorized people. The study team thought that this figure was too low, since it is likely that everyone's data has been breached at some point, whether they know it has or not.
3. Dr. Dahbura concluded by pointing out there are many adults who could benefit from cyber hygiene education and that the data supports efforts to include cyber education in K12 education as a strategy for raising the level of operational security awareness among future adults.
  4. The chair thanked Dr. Dahbura and his team for the survey and the overview of preliminary findings. She asked how the findings could be used for public policy purposes.
    - a. The chair observed that the findings supported increasing the consumer-directed cybersecurity webinars that the subcommittee has sponsored in past years.
    - b. Dr. Dahbura stated that the study would make an excellent Op-ed article in the Baltimore Sun, where the findings could be marshalled to support certain policies, like K12 cyber hygiene instruction.
    - c. Dr. von Lehmen suggested that one way to generate visibility of the findings and discussion of them would be to host a panel at the December CyberMaryland conference. The chair and Dr. Dahbura asked him to explore whether the conference organizers would be receptive to such a panel.
  5. The chair asked that Dr. Dahbura and his team complete the preliminary report and that the next meeting of the subcommittee be dedicated to planning specific actions. Examples include planning a schedule of consumer-directed webinars for the rest of the year on cyber hygiene and briefings for the new legislative members of the Council.

### Adjourn

The chair asked if there was any further business. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

[Note: These minutes were approved by the subcommittee at its August 30, 2023, meeting.]