

ACICE Issue 12/22 (December)

ACICE Monthly Digest

A monthly roundup of significant news around the world



ADMM Cybersecurity and
Information Centre of Excellence

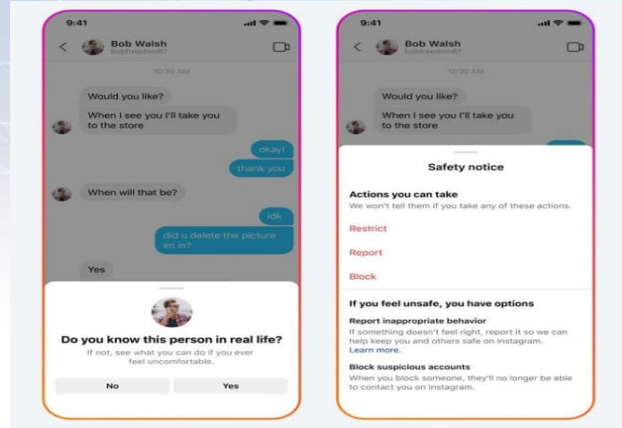
Information and Cybersecurity

New Social Media Features Aim To Protect Teens

- According to *World Economic Forum*, individuals' digital trust in the technologies used by businesses and governments around the world is at an all-time low. Among the factors responsible for the decline in digital trust is the failure of digital technologies and services to protect the users' interest, including their safety and data privacy.
- Almost half of the social media users around the world are below 25 years old.¹ As such, various social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok have introduced and tested new tools to better protect teens and their privacy.
- For instance, Facebook implemented new features and filters that allow teens to: (a) limit visibility of their tagged posts and the list of friends they follow; (b) restrict comments on their posts; and (c) limit teens' visibility in others' list of recommended accounts to follow.
- Similarly, Instagram now removes the "message" button on teens' accounts when they are viewed by suspicious adults. Safety notice pop-ups with information on how to navigate inappropriate messages from adults were implemented as well (see [Figure 1](#) for an example of the safety notice pop-ups).

¹ As *Deccan Herald* reported, more than 5.4 billion people around the world are using Facebook and Instagram – the two most popular social media platforms.

Figure 1: Example of a Safety Notice Pop-up



- TikTok also launched a campaign #SaferTogether earlier this month to empower creators, parents, teachers and guardians with knowledge of TikTok’s safety features. Parents can also ensure teens’ online safety by linking their TikTok accounts to the parents’ to customise the amount of screen time and restrict direct messages that may be considered harmful.
- The internet can be a dangerous place if internet security and privacy are not taken seriously. Hence, it is a positive sign that the different social media platforms are continuing to create a safer internet space for everyone. Educators, parents, and government should also keep abreast of the latest social media trends and policy changes to better protect teens from digital harms.
- As failure to rebuild digital trust could undermine the credibility of societal institutions and national digitalisation efforts, government officials could work together with the social media companies and develop tools to better protect citizen and national data. This could entail establishing channels by which users or their parents could flag phishing or other suspicious digital activity on social media for review.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

Renewable Energy Solution for Disaster Relief

- Solar power is a very important source of renewable and sustainable energy. With the use of solar power, energy can be self-generated during natural disasters where electricity or power sources could be affected.
- Powered by the sun, microgrids or nanogrids can generate power within 15 minutes and provide weeks of energy. For instance, Babcock Ranch is the first town in Florida, US, to run entirely on solar energy and did not lose power or internet access when Hurricane Ian battered Florida's eastern coast between 23 to 30 Sep 2022 . These solar-powered microgrids also provided essential power when traditional utilities go offline in other disaster zones, like Puerto Rico.
- Not only can microgrids assist medical responders with off-grid power, microgrids can also serve as central nodes to receive information, power water purification and operate as an EV charger. With the distributed energy system, there are less points of failure for power to reach people in need. This would be useful during times of disaster by allowing people to charge their digital devices and contact family members or friends.



Solar-Powered Microgrids

- For decades, researchers and scientists have urged leaders to create policies to promote renewable energy as part of global efforts to enhance disaster relief efforts. Its usefulness during emergency situations is another impetus for governments to continue working together with various agencies to develop solar-powered technologies.

Terrorism

Pro-ISIS Regional Reactions to ISIS' New Leader

- On 30 Nov 2022, ISIS' spokesperson announced that its leader – Abu al-Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi – died in a military engagement. He urged every Muslim, both fighter and civilian, to pledge allegiance to the new ISIS leader, Abu al-Husayn al-Hsayni al-Qurashi, and gave assurance that the group was unshaken by these events and would continue to wage *jihad*.
- On the same day, regional pro-ISIS media groups and individuals started pledging allegiance to the new ISIS leader via Facebook, Instagram, Telegram and other social media platforms. Supporters circulated the speech by the ISIS spokesperson, shared their pledges of allegiance and invited others to do the same. Some supporters expressed support for the spokesperson's speech, asserting that the death of the previous leader would not stop *jihad*.

Hostile References by ISIS and Al-Qaeda (AQ) Against the 2022 FIFA World Cup

- Both pro-AQ and pro-ISIS groups have issued threats against the 2022 FIFA World Cup held in Qatar from 20 Nov to 18 Dec 2022. An editorial published in *al-Naba*, ISIS' official publication, called for supporters to remove “polytheists, Jews, and Christians” from the Arabian Peninsula, while AQ called on Muslims to boycott the event. Pro-ISIS supporters have also called for various types of attacks, including biological attacks, against citizens of countries involved in the global coalition to defeat ISIS. Supporters in the region have expressed similar sentiments, inciting attacks against those attending the event.

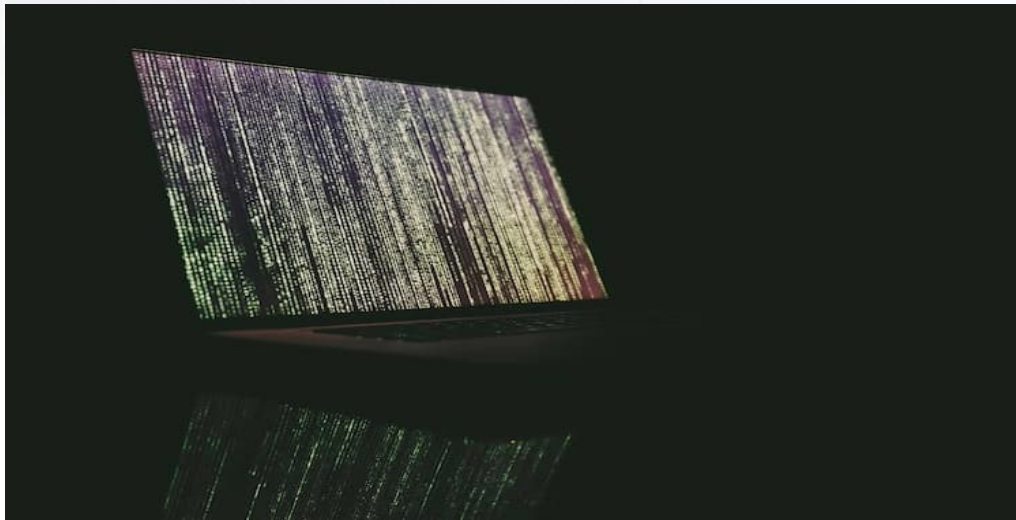
Suicide Bombing Attack in Bandung, West Java

- On 7 Dec 2022, a Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD)-linked ex-terror convict, Agus Sujatno, conducted a suicide bombing at a Police HQ in Bandung, West Java killing a police officer and injuring at least ten others. A note left on the motorcycle he used revealed that the motivation for the attack stemmed from an ideological opposition to Indonesia's new criminal code, which was passed by parliament on 6 Dec 2022; the code banned the spread of ideas considered contrary to Indonesia's state ideology, Pancasila, including extremist ideology. Agus' note also called for attacks on those enforcing the laws. This is the first attack and suicide bombing in Indonesia in 2022.²
- A few hours after the attack, Indonesian pro-ISIS media groups and individuals celebrated the suicide bombing and praised Agus for carrying out a lone-wolf attack in Indonesia. They also expressed willingness to follow suit, and hoped for further assaults by ISIS supporters.

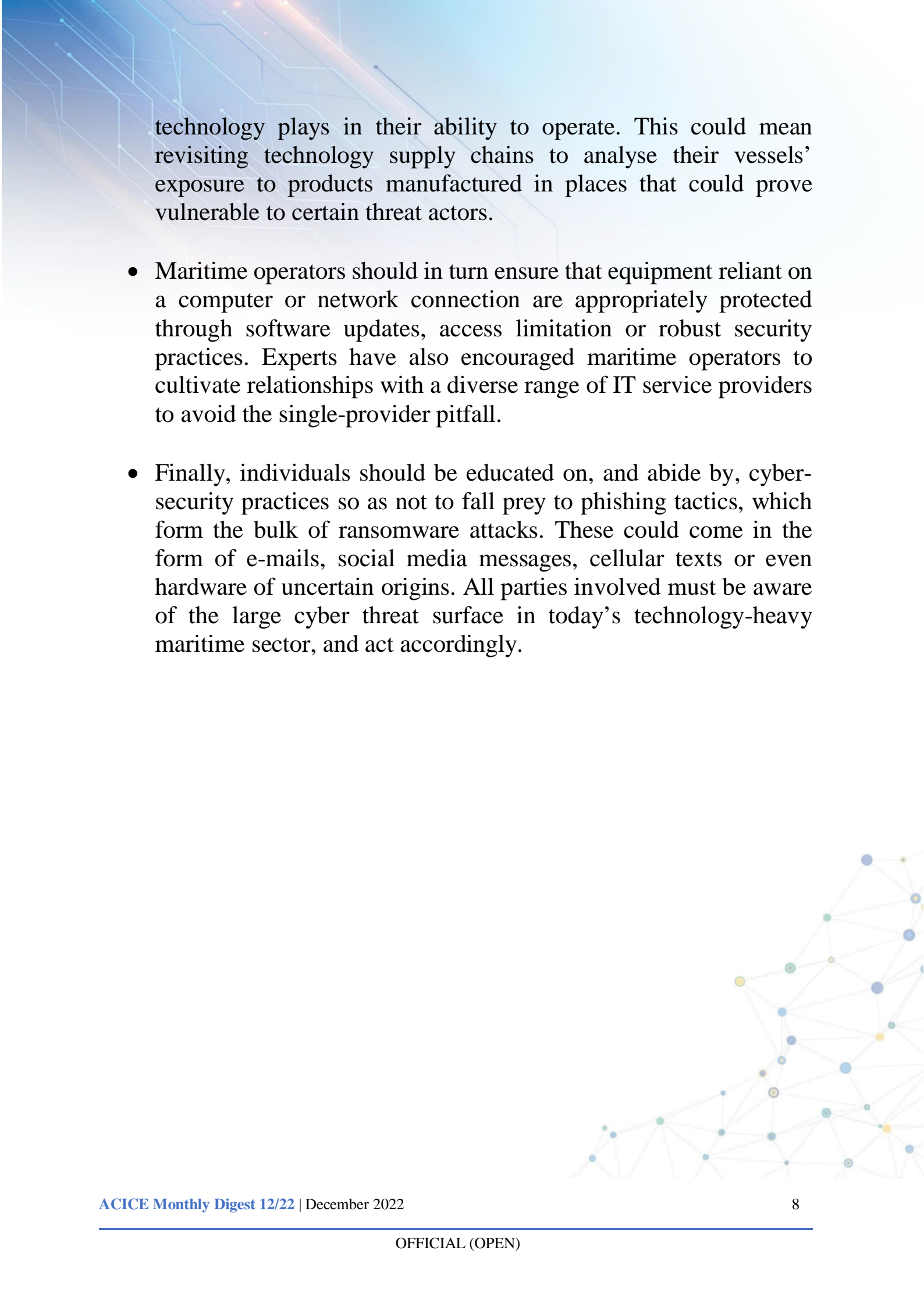
² The last attack in Indonesia was in May 2021 when MIT militants attacked farmers in Poso, Sulawesi, and the last suicide bombing was in Mar 2021 when a married couple affiliated with pro-ISIS group JAD conducted a suicide bombing at the Makassar Cathedral.

Maritime Security

The Threat of Cyber Pirates



- Digital threats in the maritime environment have reportedly increased. According to *Marine Executive*, cyber-criminals are now using focused ransomware attacks in multi-extortion style campaigns that affect multiple organisations at once.
- Similar to hacking, cyber piracy involves gaining access to the plethora of internet-connected systems powering cargo ships, and then disabling, hijacking or rerouting ships into the waiting arms of criminals. These criminals have chosen to target shipping companies because these companies can pay the ransoms to have their vessel back.
- Cyber experts bemoan that IT systems controlling critical maritime infrastructure typically have a single point of failure. As countries conduct businesses across borders, shipping companies that rely heavily on a single external service provider could be leaving the door open to cyber pirates.
- As cyber-security consultancy firm *Mandiant* recommended, leaders in the maritime sector should re-examine the role



technology plays in their ability to operate. This could mean revisiting technology supply chains to analyse their vessels' exposure to products manufactured in places that could prove vulnerable to certain threat actors.

- Maritime operators should in turn ensure that equipment reliant on a computer or network connection are appropriately protected through software updates, access limitation or robust security practices. Experts have also encouraged maritime operators to cultivate relationships with a diverse range of IT service providers to avoid the single-provider pitfall.
- Finally, individuals should be educated on, and abide by, cyber-security practices so as not to fall prey to phishing tactics, which form the bulk of ransomware attacks. These could come in the form of e-mails, social media messages, cellular texts or even hardware of uncertain origins. All parties involved must be aware of the large cyber threat surface in today's technology-heavy maritime sector, and act accordingly.

Annex

Sources

Information and Cybersecurity

- New Social Media Features Aim To Protect Teens
 - <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/12/losing-digital-trust-will-harm-technological-innovation/>
 - <https://www.livemint.com/technology/tech-news/meta-brings-new-tools-to-protect-teen-s-privacy-on-instagram-and-facebook-11669112440638.html>
 - <https://about.fb.com/news/2022/11/protecting-teens-and-their-privacy-on-facebook-and-instagram/>
 - <https://www.deccanherald.com/business/technology/instagram-facebook-get-new-privacy-features-to-protect-teenagers-1164977.html>
 - <https://leadership.ng/tiktok-launches-campaign-to-strengthen-community-safety/>
 - Photo: Deccan Herald
<https://www.deccanherald.com/business/technology/instagram-facebook-get-new-privacy-features-to-protect-teenagers-1164977.html>

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

- Renewable Energy Solution for Disaster Relief
 - <https://energyindustryreview.com/analysis/agrivoltaism-a-win-win-system/>
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/jackson-start-up-unveils-renewable-energy-solution-for-disaster-relief/>
 - <https://www.fox47news.com/neighborhoods/jackson-hillsdale/jacksons-sesame-solar-makes-nanogrid-with-100-renewable-energy-first-of-its-kind-in-the-world>
 - <https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/green-tech/a42126384/how-microgrids-and-solar-panels-are-becoming-unsung-hurricane-heroes/>
 - Photo: Popular Mechanics
<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/green-tech/a42126384/how-microgrids-and-solar-panels-are-becoming-unsung-hurricane-heroes/>

Terrorism

- Pro-ISIS Regional Reactions to ISIS' New Leader
 - <https://memri.org/reports/jihad-and-terrorism-threat-monitor-jttm-weekly-december-3-10-2022>
- ISIS and AQ Against the 2022 FIFA World Cup
 - <https://terrorism-info.org.il/en/hostile-references-by-isis-and-al-qaeda-to-the-fifa-world-cup-games-in-qatar/>
- Suicide Bombing Attack in Bandung, West Java
 - <https://reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/indonesia-investigating-explosion-bandung-police-station-media-2022-12-07/>

Maritime Security

- The Threat of Cyber Pirates
 - <https://maritime-executive.com/magazine/cyber-pirates>

- <https://channel16.dryadglobal.com/cyber-pirates>
- <https://gcaptain.com/simple-steps-to-take-in-complex-cyber-threat-environment-like-maritime/>
- [Photo: Markus Spiske/Unsplash](#)

Contact Details

For any queries and/or clarifications, please contact ACICE at ACICE@defence.gov.sg

Prepared by:

ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence