

ACICE Issue 2/22 (February)

# ACICE Monthly Digest

A monthly roundup of significant news around the world



ADMM Cybersecurity and  
Information Centre of Excellence

# Information and Cybersecurity

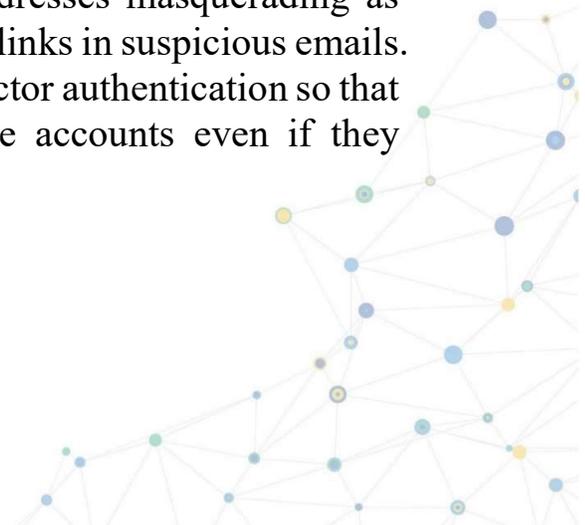
## Unknown Cyber-Attack on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- On 19 Jan 2022, unknown intruders hacked into the servers of ICRC, gaining access to personal and confidential information on more than half a million people.
- The data of about 515,000 people included those separated from their families due to conflict, migration, or disaster, as well as missing persons, and families of people in detention.
- The attack could potentially expose the identities of people who are under the Red Cross Network's protection. At this moment, however, there are no indications that the information has been shared or leaked.
- The cyber-attack also disrupted the Red Cross's ability to perform its tasks as the breach forced ICRC to shut down its systems.



## New Phishing Scams Targeting Instagram Users

- A new scamming tactic devised by cybercriminals makes Instagram users click on malicious links by sending them a fake copyright infringement notice.
- By capitalising on users' fear of getting their Instagram account terminated, users were tricked into revealing their personal log-in information to the fraudsters.
- Once users clicked on the malicious links, they were channelled to a website page where they were asked to key in their user ID and password. After which, the fraudsters would have full access to the victims' Instagram accounts.
- The scam emails were sent from an address ending in @instagram.team instead of the official email domain, @instagram.com. To prevent being duped by such tactics, users should be alert to fraudulent email addresses masquerading as official addresses and avoid clicking on links in suspicious emails. Additionally, users should set up two-factor authentication so that hackers will not be able to access the accounts even if they possessed the users' login credentials.



# Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

## Tonga Seeking ‘Contactless’ Aid From Countries



Photo of the eruption of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai Volcano in Tonga

- In times of natural disasters, a damaged transportation network and disruption to power supply make it difficult to restore communication.
- After a massive volcanic eruption in Tonga, communication was disrupted and supplies were scarce. Additionally, with the rise in COVID-19 cases among aiders, countries like Australia have taken an alternative approach – through contactless delivery such as cranes – to deliver relief supplies.
- New Zealand has also delivered a high-tech mobile desalination plant on a New Zealand naval ship, capable of drawing seawater and filtering it to produce 70,000 litres of clean water to residents.
- Other countries such as China have also provided help with the rescue work through the use of high-tech devices such as drones, unmanned vessels and remote water supply systems.

# Terrorism

## Anti-Vaxxer Groups ‘Evolving’ to Violent Extremism

- An increasing number of anti-vaxxers have targeted schools and stormed COVID-19 testing sites in the UK and Canada. There has been an increasing amount of anti-Semitic, Islamophobic or even racist views among anti-vaxxer groups.
- Anti-vaxx conspiracists such as British activist Piers Corbyn, are moving offline, preparing for a ‘war’ against governments and their COVID-19 management policies. They have also seized the chance to promote ideologically-eclectic movements that combine both COVID-19 conspiracies and extremism.
- In the UK, conspiracists such as Corbyn urged people to burn down the offices of Members of Parliament who backed new restrictions. Protests and demonstrations against COVID-19 lockdowns have turned violent. For instance, thousands of protestors had gathered in UK Parliament Square where they marched through the capital. In Canada, anti-vaxxer groups were seen advocating for their rights and accused the government of manipulating the population. For instance, several hundred truckers parked near the parliament, and thousands of people have participated in a rally on Parliament Hill, Canada.
- As such, there are signs that anti-vaxx conspiracies are emerging as an ideological driver of extremist violence, which presents a significant challenge to governments that is different from the traditional categories of far-right and Islamist extremism.

# Maritime Security

## Rising Cyberattacks Against Maritime Industry



- With the rapid digitalisation of the maritime industry, critical infrastructures within the marine sector have grown increasingly vulnerable to cyber-attacks.
- Cybercriminals are targeting shipping companies through ransomware attacks to steal credentials and gain access to logistics backend systems. The increase in machine-to-machine communication and code-signing certificates have created an ideal environment for cyber-attackers to target software supply chain operations.
- There has been an increasing trend of utilising Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices in office spaces and industrial plants. As these devices depend on machine identities, it gives cybercriminals another attack target besides the device itself.
- As such, it is imperative for maritime industries to better prepare for cyberattacks such as by upgrading their backend systems and changing their usernames and passwords regularly.

# Annex

## Sources

### Information and Cybersecurity

- Unknown Cyber-Attack on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
  - <https://www.euronews.com/2022/01/21/red-cross-cyber-attack-exposes-data-of-515-000-vulnerable-people>
  - <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/2022/cyberattack-on-international-committee-of-the-red-cross.html>
- New Phishing Scams Attack Targeted on Instagram Users
  - <https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/17102682/facebook-whatsapp-instagram-scams-steal-logins/>
  - <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/heres-how-scammers-are-targeting-instagram-users-7730101/>
  - <https://www.republicworld.com/technology-news/other-tech-news/instagram-copyright-scam-security-researcher-warns-about-messages-with-malicious-links-articleshow.html>

### Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

- Tonga seeking ‘contactless aid’ from countries
  - <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202201/1246404.shtml>
  - <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/australian-navy-ship-experiences-power-outrage-while-in-tonga-delivering-aid-20220131-p59soy.html>
  - <https://www.smh.com.au/national/tonga-receives-contactless-australian-aid-delivery-amid-looming-food-shortage-20220127-p59rra.html>

- Photo credits: Global Times.  
<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202201/1246404.shtml>

## Terrorism

- Anti-Vaxxers Groups ‘Evolving’ to Violent Extremisms
  - <https://amp.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/15/concern-for-uk-security-as-anti-vaxxer-groups-evolve-towards-us-style-militias>
  - <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2022/1/28/why-are-anti-vaccine-canadian-truckers-converging-on-ottawa>

## Maritime Security

- Rising Cyber-Attacks Against Maritime Industry
  - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2022/01/18/software-supply-chains-and-enterprise-iot-will-be-big-attack-targets-in-2022/?sh=2b13d102961d>
  - <https://theloadstar.com/warning-of-cybercrime-on-the-rise-and-passwords-being-traded-online/>

## Contact Details

For any queries and/or clarifications, please contact ACICE at [ACICE@defence.gov.sg](mailto:ACICE@defence.gov.sg)

Prepared by:  
**ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence**