



Dear Sir or Madam,

Cyber Security Information Sharing Partnership (CISP) West Midlands regional node

We are writing to you in our capacities as national policing lead for cyber-crime and Director of the National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-UK), to invite you to participate in the West Midlands regional Cyber-security Information Sharing Partnership (CISP).

Following the launch of similar nodes in 2014, and following considerable feedback from businesses in this region, we are now creating a West Midlands based-only regional information sharing node sitting on the national CISP platform.

There are a number benefits in belonging to the regional node including;

- Obtain early warning of cyber threats
- Learn from experiences, mistakes and successes of other users without fear of exposing organisation sensitivities
- Opportunity to engage with industry, government counterparts in a secure environment
- Seek advice from other CISP members
- Participate in building pooled knowledge with access to CISP fusion cell outputs/information

The regional concept is modelled on that of the national CISP. Launched in March 2013, CiSP is a joint, collaborative initiative between industry and government to share cyber threat and vulnerability information in order to increase overall situational awareness of the cyber threat, and therefore reduce the impact upon business. The national CISP is now part of the UK Computer Emergency Response Team, CERT-UK. Launched in March 2014, CERT-UK works closely with industry, government and academia to enhance UK cyber resilience.

Criminality in cyberspace develops and mutates in a way that policing has never experienced before. It involves international networks and market places and not a month goes by where the threats to the UK do not change significantly. To respond, partnership with business and academia which stretches beyond words into real joint working in the operational sphere is required.

Local companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), are the back bone of the British economy, and it is vital that they understand the importance of protecting themselves from cyber-crime and that any business of any size is vulnerable to attack. This is set against the background that GCHQ report 80% of successful cyber-attacks could have been prevented through simple cyber hygiene. We would, therefore, greatly value your participation and support in delivering this strategic partnership which will make a significant contribution to protecting businesses in Warwickshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, West Midlands and Staffordshire, and maintaining public confidence by protecting our regional citizens from increasing international criminal threats.

Your participation will add value to the initiative and I would therefore like to invite you to join by firstly registering your interest, which will then be followed up with targeted events and a formal launch on date to be confirmed.

The launch will be facilitated by the Cyber Crime Unit of the West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit and CERT-UK, who will provide comprehensive detail of the initiative and demonstrate the tangible benefits for businesses.

To confirm your interest in joining the West Midlands Regional CISP node please reply via email to RCCU@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Further information is available direct from the CISP website at <https://www.cert.gov.uk/cisp/>

Yours sincerely



Peter Goodman QPM
Deputy Chief Constable



Chris Gibson
Director, CERT-UK