Bundeskriminalamt

Crime Scene Internet –
A Global Challenge for Internal Security

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Secure Virtual Worlds

Summarised presentation

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As reported by the media as well, the threat through attacks from the internet has increased. Attacks with malicious programs such as Trojans aim to spy on confidential information on PCs but can also sabotage online services and/or block web pages. These days, the necessary attack tools are also available on the Internet. A study by the BSI (Federal Office for IT Security) published in May 2007 on "The situation of IT Security in Germany" indicated that IT vulnerabilities and the proliferation of malware have increased considerably and that victims are mostly being specifically targeted by more and more sophisticated methods.

As central government authority for IT security, the BSI's task is to support the administration regarding IT security and to advise the public about potential threats and suitable safety measures. The IT Basic Protection Manual is of special importance in this context. This manual has been continuously updated by the BSI since 1992 and enables the safe use of information technology through organisational, personnel and technical safety measures. As a technical measure, modern encryption procedures can effectively protect data transfer and storage, for example, but an up-to-date virus protection program or a Firewall are the minimum requirements to protect users from attacks when accessing the Internet. We recommend the use of certified IT products. A pivotal role is also played, however, by the human beings who should act in an educated and responsible fashion as regards IT security when directing, managing and using information technology. The necessary degree of security and the users' wish for a broad range of functions must be weighed against each other and, as a consequence, the degree of freedom in the unlimited use of the Internet may have to be curtailed. This is especially important when very sensitive data are held in the same system or network.

If all these aspects are taken into account, the safe use of information technology is also possible in today's virtual world. It is of the utmost importance not to consider IT security as a one-off measure but as a continuous process which must be further developed whilst taking into regard new threats to IT.

Further information:
www.bsi.bund.de (Overview of BSI services)
www.BSI-fuer-buerger.de (Special information for private IT users)