

European Cybersecurity Month to Prevent Cyber Scams

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October has been the European cybersecurity month for the past six years. The European Commission and the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) arranged the occasion to raise awareness of cybersecurity and to provide users the opportunities to protect themselves from cyber-criminals. The focus of the campaign is to give users some useful tips and tricks to prevent themselves from being a victim of cyber scams. These include phishing, smishing, and vishing.

Phishing is using an electronic communication in order to get personal information of a user such as usernames, passwords, bank details, etc. Fraudsters often use different kind of malicious methods to obtain these personal details of the users. Typically, the user receives an email that seems to be sent by a known contact or organization. In the email, there's a malicious file attachment that contains phishing software or a link to a website. In the website, the user is required to fill in personal information such as bank details. Smishing and vishing are forms of phishing using text message (SMS) and telephone (fraud of telephony).

During the campaign in the cybersecurity month, companies have the opportunity to learn about the tricks and tips to avoid these three types of fraud. Every country has its own events and workshops which companies can choose to attend. Some countries also collaborate with each other for some events. For example, the UK and Ireland launched two new academic level certifications in Certified Ethical Hacking and Cyber Forensics from EC Council on the 10^{th} of October. The purpose of this event was to teach students the latest practices when preventing and addressing cybersecurity.

With the success of the cybersecurity month, the number of cyber scams is expected to continue to reduce in Europe.

More information: https://blog.tellows.co.uk/2018/10/european-cybersecurity-month-phishing-vishing-smishing/

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