COORDINATED VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE   March, 2016

Trust, trustworthiness and cooperation are fundamental building blocks for any organization. Technology is advancing faster than ever before, making 'anything' possible. Customers expect easy-to-use and always available online services and innovations.

The implementation of new technologies and technology interdependences between organizations can lead to complex challenges. While the complexity and dependency on ICT products and services is increasing, so are the vulnerabilities associated with them. Cooperation between organizations, countries and communities needs to be strengthened if we want to keep the trust of our customers.

To further improve this cooperation we are very pleased to introduce the 'Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure Manifesto'. Organizations who adopt this Manifesto and implement their own policy will directly benefit when vulnerabilities are identified within their ICT landscape. The research and hacker communities get acknowledged for exposing vulnerabilities in a responsible way to the organization. Fundamental to coordinated vulnerability disclosure is that the parties involved adhere to the arrangements on reporting and dealing with the vulnerability. With this Manifesto the initiators and supporters wish to acknowledge the efforts of research and hacker communities and emphasize the need for a balance between transparency and time-to-respond. On the one hand the public needs to be informed of newly discovered security vulnerabilities. On the other hand organizations need some time to respond effectively. A lack of arrangements can lead to full disclosure or vulnerabilities that are waiting to be exploited. It can also lead to situations where ethical or well-intended hackers may face criminal charges.

On May 12-13, 2016 at a high-level meeting during the Dutch EU Presidency this Manifesto will be launched. The initiators hope that many organizations will sign the Manifesto and – of course – by adopting and implementing a coordinated vulnerability disclosure policy and process in their own organizations.

For the text of the manifesto, please visit: coordinated vulnerability disclosure manifesto[1].

For the policy document and implementation guide on Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure provided by CIO Platform Nederland, please visit: policy document[2] and implementation guide[3].

If you have any questions or want to contribute to the initiative by signing the Manifesto,
Please send an e-mail to vulnerability.disclosure@ncsc.nl if you are interested in this initiative.

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The Dutch Cyber Security Center (NCSC) strongly encourages this private initiative.

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[1] http://www.cio-platform.nl/uploads/CioPublicatie2016%20CEG%20Information%20Security%20Coordinated%20 Vulnerability%20Disclosure%20Manifesto%20DEF.pdf

[2] http://www.cio-platform.nl/uploads/CioPublicatie2016%20CegInfoSec%20Coordinated%20Vulnerability%20 Disclosure%20Policy%20and%20Procedure%20-%20ENG%20v1.0.pdf

[3] http://www.cio-platform.nl/uploads/CioPublicatie2016%20CegInfoSec%20Coordinated%20Vulnerability%20 Disclosure%20Implementation%20Guide%20-%20ENG%20v1.0.pdf