

eSecure

Secure and be Aware !
An e-zine from CySI

[Volume 1, Number 1]
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Felicitation

I am delighted to hear that the Cyber Society of India is bringing out an e-Magazine. This is a right move against the backdrop of a dynamic cyber-space, which provides opportunities for both good and devious visitors. This is what that explains escalating cyber-crime of current times - The need of the hour is a swift channel of communication that facilitates dissemination of critical Information on the goings-on in cyberspace to potential victims of cyber-crime. The proposed ezine will go a long way in alerting Internet users against the perils of careless surfing and to highlight the need for extreme circumspection. A careful choice of material from various parts of the world will greatly enhance the utility of the ezine. I wish this imaginative move to chronicle events in the cyberspace all success.



Dr. R.K. Raghavan
Former Director
Central Bureau of Investigation
& NMS Board Member

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Presidential Address

Dear Readers

It has been a long cherished desire (may I say, dream?) of CySIans to start an e-magazine that would help create an awareness on IT Security, Cyber Laws and Cyber Security related information. Though CySI is constantly updating its website on such topics and reporting details of conferences and meetings organized by CySI and participated in by CySI, such reports are just a record of what happened. Spreading awareness has always been part of the mission and the core objective of CySI and with a view to move closer to reaching that objective, this initiative has now been made. Our e-magazine will focus on current affairs in information security, brief reports on CySI events, news of importance about CySI life members and many other interesting items catering to various segments of society ensuring wider reach and enhancing readability.



I am happy to be part of the editorial board in the official launch of the first issue. It is up to all of us, all CySIans and not just the committee members or the editorial board members, to give the e-magazine perpetual succession and a durable presence, warning the netizens' society, whenever required, about the threats to the cyber community, cautioning them about the lack of security initiatives, sharing relevant information, announcing what's happening around the globe and taking the readers to an enhanced level of awareness.

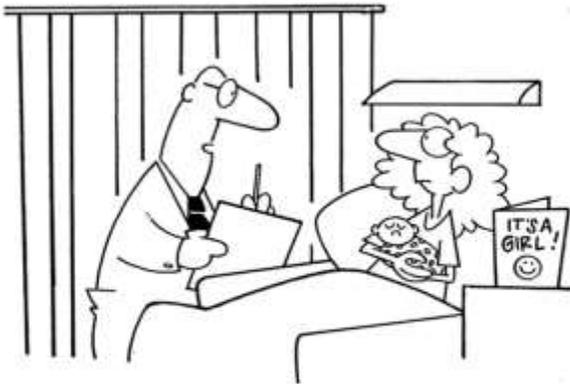
Wish you all a happy and enjoyable reading. Success of this magazine depends on the feedback from all of you. Please keep emailing or texting or otherwise sharing your views, criticisms and suggestions for a healthy growth of the magazine.

Rajendran V



Editor Speaks

Information Technology is a conglomeration of hardware, Operating System, networking, communication, database, application software and what not. Again it is eternally advancing, beyond imagination. As depicted by the cartoon (courtesy Internet google search) – though this seems to be imaginative, it is pregnant with lot of message. If anyone had talked about mobile phone in the 1980s, all of us would have laughed at the very concept. But it has become a part of everyone's life – a necessity not a luxury or comfort, any more.



"There was no umbilical cord. These days, babies are connected by Bluetooth."

When technology is moving at a swift speed, the fraudsters also move/advance equally or faster. The entry gates have also multiplied. But has the security been able to cope with or is plugging of all the gates at the same time possible? These are some important questions in front of the cyber security conscious persons.

Every other institution is bringing out Cyber security standards enabling organizations to practice safe security techniques to **minimize** the number of successful cyber security attacks. It has to be noted cautiously that the word **minimize** is used and not **avoid**. Yes it is almost impossible to avoid 100% attacks.

These standards provide general outlines as well as specific techniques for implementing cyber security. Cyber security standards have been created recently because sensitive information is now frequently stored on computers that are attached to the Internet. Also many tasks that were once done manually are carried out through systems; therefore there is a greater need for Information Assurance (IA) and security.

Standards of Good Practices - In the 1990s, the Information Security Forum (ISF) published a comprehensive list of best practices for information security, as the Standards of Good Practices (SoGP). The ISF continues to update the SoGP every two years; the latest version was published in 2011. **ISO 15408** - This standard develops what is called the "Common Criteria." It allows many different software applications to be integrated and tested in a secure way.

CySI has dedicated itself to Cyber Security and creating awareness about various standards, best practices, etc. This ezine is one such initiative. Hope this will benefit the public using Cyber space.



Mr. Ramamurthy N

Chief Editor of this magazine and active Executive Committee Member of CySI

Ramamurthy, is a versatile personality with unique blend of experience in various walks of Banking and related IT solutions. His specialty is continuous learning. His qualifications include – M.Sc., B.G.L., CISA, PMP, CGBL, Black Belt in Six-sigma and so on. He spreads his knowledge through consulting and teaching.

He has so far published nine books and seven books are in print. Some more books are in the pipe line. These books relate to religion, IT and Banking. He takes active role in religious activities in addition to IT security. Banking related roles.

Cyber Society of India (CySI) – a genesis



Mr. Rajendran V.

Basically a banker, now turned an advocate especially in cyber-crimes and banking technology, Guest Faculty and invited speaker in many Universities, colleges and Staff Training Centres of banks, Police Academies, etc., on Cyber Laws, Frauds in ATMs, Internet Banking etc., and Cyber Crimes and information security. Authored a book on IT Security published by Indian Institute of Banking and Finance and publishes articles.

It was the early days of cyber-crimes reporting when the definition of cyber-crime itself lacked clarity, with different interpretations. Investigation of such crimes by the police was in a very nascent stage with the other stake holders like the legal fraternity and judiciary trying to grapple with the situation, acquiring functional knowledge if not mastery over the subject. In a discussion over tea, during the hot summer days of 2004 (when the first case under the I.T. Act was yet to be officially reported), a group of committed, dedicated tech-savvy enthusiasts decided that something had to be done to enhance the level of awareness on the vulnerabilities in an electronic transaction, the risks in ATM transactions, threats in Internet Banking and the issues faced by the victims, the data owners and the service providers.

Origin: With a broader objective of doing something in a constructive manner, complementing the efforts of the government, supplementing the steps taken by other NGOs and neither contradicting nor competing with others, a not-for-profit association of persons was proposed. And thus was the **CySI** born.

Persons involved: The then Accountant General of Tamil Nadu Shri T Theethan, a well-known techno-legal expert Shri Naa Vijayashankar, founder of Gemini group of companies Shri R Ramamurthy and the Public Relations corporate guru Shri K Srinivasan – to name just a few. There were three great personalities as patrons of the society viz. Dr. R.K. Raghavan,

former Director CBI, Dr. N Seshagiri, former Director General of NIC and Shri N Vittal, former Central Vigilance Commissioner and the recent Padma Bhooshan awardee (who continues to guide us and participate in our functions).

With a modest beginning of around 7 members, CySI has now grown into a formidable group of 70-plus members spanning the nation, who organize seminars and conferences in different cities. Members and office-bearers of CySI participate actively and address seminars and workshops conducted by organizations like ASSOCHAM, FICCI and various police academies of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Police, Coimbatore Commissioner Office, Chennai North Zone Police besides various Universities, colleges and other academic institutions.

Police Commissioners, senior IAS officials, top bureaucrats from the Central Government (like CERT In), Additional Director General of Police, Judicial officers and former CBI Court judges, CMDs of public sector banks, CEOs of corporate undertakings in IT and related companies, besides Vice Chancellors, Registrars of Universities have addressed the participants of CySI events.

Besides such events, CySI members are often invited to various debates and panel discussions on popular television channels with a pan India coverage. Views of CySI experts are often solicited after a significant incident in cyber-crime is reported and/ or initiatives are taken by the government. On the day of writing of this column, RBI came out with a directive banning offer of 0% interest in Credit Card EMI repayments and mandating complete disclosure of related conditions in such offers. In the news reported by a News Channel in Tamil the views of CySI President were recorded and telecast.



CySI's initiatives towards awareness

Cyber Society of India, in conformity with its Vision, has been involving in many activities aimed at spreading awareness to netizens towards a better cyber world. The new committee elected in April 2013, started off with renewed vigor enthused by the well-attended AGM in May 2013.



The first programme of the new committee viz.,



“Safety Over the Net” was organized on 30-May-2013 at HTC Towers, Chennai, in collaboration with HTC Global Service India Pvt. Ltd. The programme was well represented from across professions and enthusiastically supported by HTC Global executives and CySI members.

In June 2013, a grand workshop on “Cyber Crime: Prevention methodologies” was organized and the same was honored with presentations from Dr. C. Sylendra Babu IPS, Mr Talwant Singh, (Member Judicial e-Committee, (CERT In), among underlined its by launching a



Mr. Kapaleeswaran V.

Vice President of CySI - Former Project Director and as Head of Banking Testing practice of an IT Major, published White paper on Retail Banking Testing. Associated as Guest faculty, Advisor and Core banking test consultant across organizations. Other interests include reading, travel, networking and teaching. An avid blogger and an unabashed optimist, still looking for virgin pastures to explore and extend.

Supreme Court) and Mr. Sanjeev Bahl other speakers. At this event, CySI seriousness on educating the netizens programme CSAP (Cyber Security Awareness Programme).

In July 2013, CySI was invited by SEVA, to address the Telugu Journalist Association members and CySI members made presentations that were well received by the attendees as was evident from the extended session of Q & A.

On the 23rd of Sep 2013, CySI at the invitation of Harishree Vidyalaya, R.A.Puram, Chennai, conducted a Cyber Awareness programme for its students. Mr. Shankar Kumar, Joint secretary, CySI gave a detailed presentation on Cyber awareness which was well received with around 300 students participating along with their teachers. The school authorities appreciated the initiative and support of CySI towards this cause and requested for periodical support in updating the knowledge of the students and faculty.



On the same day, CySI was involved in another noble activity of an “outreach programme” aimed at educating students, dropouts and parents of the slum dwellers near Skywalk complex, Chennai. The programme was organized by the Lions Club of Rajeswari Nagar, Chennai and the Department of Commerce and English of Loyola College, Chennai. Chaired by Professor Antony Samy of Loyola College, the event was conducted to create an awareness about white collar crimes. Mr. Shankar Kumar, Joint secretary, CySI spoke on the subject and also answered their queries through a Q & A session. The programme concluded with the attendees requesting CySI for continued support with such awareness programmes.

A similar awareness programme was conducted on the 24th Sep at the Avvaipuram Slum area near Harrington road, Chennai. Chaired by Prof Antony Samy of Loyola College, CySI was represented by our President Mr. V. Rajendran and Joint Secretary Mr Shankar Kumar. This programme was also conducted under the joint efforts of Loyola College and Lions Club of Rajeswari Nagar, Chennai in which there was enthusiastic participation which concluded with an informative Q & A session. Here too, CySI was requested to extend continued support with such periodical awareness programmes.

CySI is actively considering and following up with many institutions on conduct of Awareness programmes and workshops. A college in Udipi and SRM College, Chennai are likely to finalize their programme dates soon.

Some Interesting Quotes/ Cartoons

Ramamurthy N

These may look like funny. But they carry lots of messages. Thanks to the Internet.



Newest News



Ms. Panchi S.

Panchi has sixteen years of experience in Information technology. She possesses an M.Tech, M.Sc., CAIIB and PG cert in Cyber Law. She is also a CISA certified professional. She has also presented research papers in Indian Institute of Banking and Finance and won prizes. Few articles in various magazines and publications are to her credit.

Industrialists hit by Cyber Espionage

In the first week of August, Manraj Taneja, a marketing executive at a real estate company in Sarabha Nagar, received an email that was sent from an email-id that was similar to his company's official email address of Noida office.

He enthusiastically opened the mail and found that the company's owner had asked for crucial details like Ludhiana office's clients, networks, turnover and marketing strategies being used. However, he reported the matter to senior officers and it turned out to be an attempt of cyber espionage.

Cyber espionage, the practice of spying to obtain secret information like proprietary or classified details, confidential sales data, turnover, clients' contacts, diplomatic reports and records of military or political nature, have hit city industrialists.

Hence, we may have to ensure that whenever we get any sensitive data request, its better to confirm the same with the sender through any other mode of communication before revealing the same through E-mail. Of course, its better to be safe than sorry.

Syrian Electronic Army (SEA) implicated in Twitter, New York Times attacks

The Syrian Electronic Army apparently took control over the Twitter.com Web site address record last month, the hacker group's latest attack on high-profile Internet sites.

The Twitter.com who is record, which lists the owner of the Web address names called domains, listed the owner's e-mail address as sea@sea.sy. The site continued to function, however.

The New York Times' Web site went down on Tuesday afternoon, and the SEA is a suspect there, too. "Our initial assessment is that this is most likely the result of a malicious external attack," the Times said in a statement on Facebook.

Its highly apparent with these happenings that the world war is in the form of Cyber media in the current days.

Cyber Lingo - Cold Boot Attack

A cold boot attack is a type of side channel attack in which an attacker with physical access to a computer is able to retrieve encryption keys from a running operating system after using a cold reboot to restart the machine. The attack relies on the data reminisce property of DRAM and SRAM to retrieve memory contents which remain readable in the seconds to minutes after power has been removed.

Indian IT Act an Introduction

by *Rajendran V*

The Indian I.T. Act 2000 is the **first legislation in the country** in the area of I.T. electronic transactions. Whereas every other developed and developing country in the world already have more than one legislation on I.T. covering the various elements of e-commerce or e-banking transaction, India was almost among the last of the nations to come out with a concrete legislative step in this area. The Act was later substantially amended by **I.T. Amendment Act 2008**, which came into force on 27 Oct 2009.



The I.T. Act, 2000 enacted in June 2000 was with effect from 17th October 2000. As recorded in the Act itself, the main purpose of the Act is to **provide legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic** data interchange and other means of electronic communication, commonly referred to as ‘electronic commerce’, which

involve the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information to facilitate electronic filing of documents with the Government agencies and further to amend other related Acts.

The Act defines words like computer, computer system, data, access, information etc. Taking a closer look at the definition of computer in the Act, one may also bring in certain electronic equipment and gadgets like a micro-processor chip based microwave oven or a sophisticated device like features-rich washing machine under this definition of a computer. Interestingly, the word ‘cybercrime’ has not been defined in the Act. Therefore, offences committed on or with these equipment may well be brought under the purview of this Act. The Act recognizes Digital Signature (later replaced by the words “electronic signature” to make it technology-neutral), as a means of authentication of an e-record.

The important operative sections in the Act are **Sections 43 (and its subsections 43-A etc.), 65, 66, 67** etc. Section 43 deals with unauthorized access, downloading, denial of access, introducing a virus etc., and discusses the issue of civil liability in an electronic offence. Sec 43-A introduced, as per the ITAA 2008, the concept of “reasonable security practices” providing for compensation for failure to protect data, and thus fixing the responsibility on the part of corporate handling data.

Section 65 deals with tampering with computer source code and **Section 66** deals with hacking. **Section 67** is on publishing of obscene information in an electronic form and has far reaching coverage. The first conviction under I.T. Act in India was brought under this section in the case of **State of Tamil Nadu vs. Suhash Katty**.

Thus, the main purpose of the Act is to **give legal recognition to electronic records** and not to cover the entire gamut of electronic trade in the country nor to regulate the e-banking scenario. Having said this, it is however, quite laudable as a first step that a serious look has been given by the government on electronic trade and electronic records in the country and all the stake holders got a comfortable feeling that such e-transactions are very well within the ambit of Indian legislature and subject to judicial interpretation.

CySI wishes all a **VERY HAPPY DIWALI AND A GREAT SEASON AHEAD.**

The contents in this ezine are meant for sharing of knowledge and hence readers are requested to circulate this ezine in full or in part to anyone they like. Probably the readers may like to acknowledge CySI for the knowledge.

Readers are requested to send their feedback, articles, jokes, etc., to ezine@cysi.in. Let us meet in the next issue with more thought-provoking articles.

Disclaimer:

Neither CySI nor the members of the Editorial Committee/ Board owns any responsibility for the views expressed by the authors in the articles. The views expressed are the concerned author's individual views only.

Editorial Board