

SSCC Online Workshop on

## Ransomware Attacks

The number of headlines on ransomware attacks in the news shows how common this type of cyber-crime has become over the last couple of years. We are witnessing not only a considerable increase of the number of incidents, attacks also become more targeted and sophisticated. While the range of targets has widened, the devastating impact of such attacks calls for immediate action. In the first part of the event, the speakers will delve into the technical background, risk related aspects, as well as social impacts of ransomware attacks and will explain their perspective on the topic. In the subsequent discussion, panelists together with the active contribution of the audience will debate different issues related to ransomware attacks.

The workshop is co-organized by the Swiss Support Center for Cybersecurity ([SSCC](#)) and the Swiss Security Network ([SSN](#)), in collaboration with the Center for Digital Trust ([C4DT](#)) at EPFL and the Zurich Information Security Center ([ZISC](#)) at ETHZ.

Date: Tuesday November 23rd, from 13:30 until 15:30 (CET)

Place: Zoom (ID will be sent by e-mail after registration)

Registration: Free, open to the public. [Register here](#).

Program:

### Presentations

- Bruce Nikkel, Professor, Berner Fachhochschule (BFH)  
**"History and Evolution of Ransomware"**  
This talk describes the history and evolution of ransomware. We'll start from the early days of computers using malware distributed on floppy diskettes and observe how ransomware has evolved into the professional criminal operation it is today. The talk will end with some fantasy predictions of how ransomware might evolve over the next decade.
- Reto Inversini, Head of GovCERT.ch  
**"Learnings from Ransomware Incidents in Switzerland"**  
We are going to present the modus operandi of ransomware groups, current attack vectors and possible countermeasures.

- Oliver Delvos, Global Cyber Underwriting Manager, Zurich Insurance Company Ltd.

**"Cyber Risk Evaluation and Selection - An insurance perspective"**

Brief overview of the evaluation of cyber risks, and the corresponding controls. The presentation will also comment on ransomware resilience and how cyber extortion cases must be handled in a compliant way.

- Klara Jordan, Chief Public Policy Officer, CyberPeace Institute

**"Societal impact of ransomware - considerations for informed policymaking"**

Ransomware causes a wide range of direct harms to targets, but also to society as a whole. When attacks target critical infrastructure or essential services, their (temporary) disruption has long-term consequences on society's functioning and can undermine the trust in legitimate processes. What needs to happen to understand the societal impact of ransomware to inform decision makers across the ecosystem, and how to place ransomware attacks in the context in the framework of international law and norms.

## **Panel discussion**

Panelists:

- Reto Inversini, GovCERT.ch
- Oliver Delvos, Zurich Insurance
- Klara Jordan, CyberPeace Institute
- Christophe Hauert, Cyber-Safe.ch

Moderators: Sabrina Gantenbein (SSN), Patrick Schaller (SSCC/ETHZ) and Imad Aad (SSCC/EPFL)

## **Potential Workshop Attendees**

People coming from the government, academia, industry, insurances, health sector, and civil society, with technical, legal, and/or managerial backgrounds.

We look forward to seeing you at the workshop!