

AfICTA

Africa Information and Communication
Technologies Alliance

Africa Information &
Communication Technologies
Alliance (AfICTA) is a concerned
private sector led alliance of ICT
Associations, Multi-national
Corporations, Companies,
Organizations and individuals in
the ICT sector in Africa.



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Session 1: Panel Discussion

Theme: Cybersecurity: Mitigating DNS Abuse and Cybercrime

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Cyberthreat Mitigation in Post COVID Era



- The novel coronavirus has forever changed how and where we work.
- As many organizations adopt new solutions and collaboration tools (e.g., Microsoft Teams, Slack or Zoom) to accommodate employees and customers during this critical period, such fast-paced digital transformation has also exposed several shortcomings associated with our remote workforce's home networks and routers
- Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center has seen a 400% spike in coronavirus-related cyberattacks within the last six months
- Given these heightened risks, it is imperative that organizations thoroughly examine their router or home network configurations and consider the following proactive measures to safeguard their infrastructure.

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Proposal 1: Implementing secure VPN and firewall management initiatives



- Despite having encryption in place, threat actors can still exploit VPNs and access an organization's network.
- Prior to COVID-19, large organizations had minimal VPN traffic due to employees being onsite

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Proposal 2: Meeting audit and compliance requirements during rapid digital transformation



- Embracing digital transformation is no simple feat as organizations must audit which software complements their infrastructure.
- It's important for CISOs to determine which is the best solution for the organization and consult with their respective teams on how and if those selections can be implemented securely and in compliance.
- To avoid non-compliance, organizations must have visibility of their entire infrastructure, which includes computer assets, networks, security controls and vulnerabilities.

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Proposal 3: Securing cloud environments and managing cloud-native security controls



- Cloud-based services are a major component of digital transformation
- There are certain cyber hygiene practices that can limit the risk to cloud services so critical to business continuity during these times
- Utilizing encryption to protect data transfers at all touchpoints is one. Continuously monitoring for new vulnerabilities, threats and changes in exposure is another.

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Proposal 4: Outlining cyber risk management strategies to counteract COVID-19 and other cyberthreats



- The first phase begins with leadership as CISOs, IT directors and other experts determining which assets are most critical to the business and how vulnerable they are to cyberattacks, malware and other threats
- The final phase is IT teams taking inventory of all applicable equipment, helping employees that experience issues with either hardware or software efficiently to keep business running smoothly

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