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M.Sc. Management of Information Systems 2019

Cybersecurity: Evaluation of Ireland's efforts to combat Cyber Crime in comparison to other countries

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Cyberspace is undisputedly one of the most significant developments in modern history, continuously expanding to impact all aspects of modern human life from both a socio, economic and political aspect. The internet provides a platform in connecting the world and its growth continues at a phenomenal rate. Emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things is expanding the number of devices we connect to the internet, blurring the lines of the physical and cyber world. Critical services such as; energy, transport and banking are also connected to the internet, thus increasing the need for strong resilience to protect against threat vectors and adversaries. The threat landscape and threat actors is continuously changing, from cyber criminals hacking for financial gain to highly sophisticated attacks from suspected nation states in acts of cyber war for political reasons. Cyber-attacks such as the 2007 Estonian attack were the states online services; banking, news agents, governmental websites were inaccessible, Stuxnet; a targeted attack on the Natanz Iranian nuclear plant to halt its nuclear activities and the Ukrainian Power outage attack in 2015 resulting in homes without power for weeks are all examples of attacks on critical services that have gained the attention of major international organizations to respond to the increasing threats on cybersecurity. The European Union and NATO are actively responding with legislations and policies in efforts to make cyberspace safer and respond to threats. The 2013 EU cyber security strategy, the Network and Information Directive and the revised data protection act are such examples of the EU's response.

The research study assesses the threats of cyber space and the responses by international organisations. The research study examines and collates cybersecurity efforts of a selection of pre-determined countries by reviewing each nations National Cyber Security Strategy. The purpose is to compare to Ireland with the results concluding to answer our research questions.