

JPCERT/CC Activities Overview

April 1, 2020 ~ June 30, 2020



JPCERT Coordination Center
July 14, 2020

Activity Overview Topics

—Topic 1— Business E-mail Compromise Survey Report (English version) released

On June 11, JPCERT/CC released the English translation of the Business E-mail Compromise Survey Report. The Japanese version was released on March 25, 2020. This report summarizes the results of a survey conducted to investigate the actual situation of Business E-mail Compromise (BEC) in Japan with the cooperation of Japan Foreign Trade Council, Inc.'s Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC), the Japan Petrochemical Industry Association, and other organizations. In light of the survey results, the report also discusses measures against BEC in terms of preventive measures (countermeasures) and reactive measures (responses).

This survey was conducted with the aim of helping organizations in Japan to prevent losses from BEC by clarifying the actual situation faced by Japanese organizations and disseminating the findings. Even after this report was released, information about cases of BEC scams continue to be published, and readers of the Japanese version have requested the release of an English version. In response, JPCERT/CC decided to release an English version to make the information available more broadly to organizations outside Japan as well.

The English version of the report has been featured on the websites of overseas national CSIRTs and is already being used by many people. JPCERT/CC hopes that the report will be used by more people, including those who work at overseas offices of Japanese organizations, and help to prevent losses from BEC.

■ Business E-mail Compromise Survey Report

<https://www.jpcert.or.jp/english/pub/sr/BEC-survey.html>

Topic 2—Nippon CSIRT Association (NCA) is incorporated

In April 2020, JPCERT/CC jointly established the Nippon Computer Security Incident Response Team Association (herein, Nippon CSIRT Association) as a general incorporated association, with the aim of building a close cooperative system among other purposes.

Ever since its foundation in 2007, the Nippon CSIRT Association had been operating as a voluntary association until it started full operations as a general incorporated association in April 2020. As one of the founding organizations, JPCERT/CC has been cooperating with its activities since the foundation.

Moreover, JPCERT/CC served as the secretariat of the Nippon CSIRT Association from its foundation until March of this year as part of activities sponsored by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, to help CSIRT activities take root in Japan.

At the time of its foundation, few people in society were aware of the need for organizational CSIRTs or even knew what they were. At the end of March 2012, about five years after foundation, there were 27 member organizations. However, rising awareness of concrete threats such as attacks targeting specific organizations, whether public or private, also heightened awareness of the need for CSIRTs as voluntary activities. By 2017, which marked the 10th anniversary of its activities, members had grown to 194, and in the last fiscal year, members topped 400. The Nippon CSIRT Association's activities as a voluntary association had been underpinned for 13 years by the ambition of the steering committee members of each generation who ceaselessly supported its activities during this time, as well as the lofty aims of the members who were galvanized into action by a sense of urgency about the threats faced by their organizations. The recent change to a general incorporated association will solidify the association's foundation to enable more flexible operations and enhance its services provided for the members. This incorporation represents a major achievement of the efforts over the past 13 years, namely, the establishment of domestic CSIRT activities.

Enhanced activities by the Nippon CSIRT Association are proof of the strong cooperation demonstrated by organizational CSIRTs in Japan as they pursue their own activities.

Going forward, JPCERT/CC will continue to work together with the Nippon CSIRT Association in a joint effort to further promote CSIRT activities in Japan.