The Establishment of a National IT Security Body in a Nutshell

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"The art of war teaches us to rely not on the likelihood of the enemy's not coming, but on our own readiness to receive him; not on the chance of his not attacking, but rather on the fact that we have made our position unassailable"
- The art of war, Sun-Tzu

During the past few years we have witnessed enormous and rapid changes in our society and developments in its infrastructure, which has become more sophisticated and efficient and, at the same time, correspondingly more susceptible to disruption and vulnerable to threats of various kinds. Potential future problems must be identified in advance, and forestalled. Such a process must also be maintained and updated to keep abreast of current and future developments in the security situation, which must be continuously assessed and reassessed. The ability to spot vulnerabilities must be developed, as must viable strategies to detect, deter and counter threats, thus making our position unassailable. The establishment of a "National IT Security Body (NSB)" is an excellent first step.

A National Working Group to consider the feasibility of establishing an NSB as a national body, and to examine and evaluate the practical sides of carrying out this first step, should consist of all actors involved in security, policy-makers and national authorities, academia and the business world. This first step should examine the necessary platform and framework, and the nation's ability to

- Develop, nurture, and advance and maintain those practices necessary for the advancement and maintenance of a high level of information security across the Nation in all areas of society.
- Establish and maintain a high level of training, knowledge and expertise both individually and as a group (as stated elsewhere, through research, development, education and leadership development).
- Present the resulting national platform and framework as a model for international security practice.

The NSB will thus be the national Center for the training of leaders, the development of vision, and the long-term strategic planning necessary for the development of an adequate national security capability. It will be a place from which to recruit professionals in the area of security who will enter the workforce better equipped to meet the challenges facing the IT community, contribute to the development of a climate which will encourage independent research, will be an advisory body to which other research institutions and industries can turn, and will make recommendations as to what is desirable and useful security management, technology

and practice. For the NSB to fulfil its primary mission, its activities should be geared to achieving two main broad objectives essential to IT security:

- the development of ability to spot vulnerabilities, as must viable strategies to prevent, detect and counter threats, and
- the ability to identify the things that must be done nationally to establish a solid foundation for the achievement of the other objective.

Information systems, both governmental, public and private, are increasingly faced by the danger of intrusion and attack, as are other national infrastructures such as finance, air traffic control, energy industries etc., which also depend on reliable and secure information systems and infrastructures. Since information technology and threats to it affect all sectors of society, all sectors should be represented, and should be involved in the establishment of the NSB as a national body. State support is necessary to ensure stability and immunity to the vagaries of business bankruptcies, and to ensure a high level of operation and its ability to deliver tangible national benefits.

In summary, the establishment, maintenance and development of information security, an important part of national security as a whole, depends on the systematic, creative and stable co-operation of all sectors, and the best way of ensuring this is the establishment of a National Center of Excellence in IT Security under the auspices of the NSB.