

## MITA PRESS RELEASE

### EMBASSIES SERVER CYBER ATTACK: UPDATE 1

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Following the identification of unauthorised software on a server used for the storage of user credentials of personnel in Embassies of Malta abroad announced earlier today, MITA implemented a series of precautionary measures to ensure users are not exposed to unnecessary risks and to protect the security of their information. These measures include a password change for all Government users, which was started last night and is currently underway.

MITA has escalated its monitoring of all activity on such servers and no further anomalous activity, indicative of any breach, has been registered or detected. Nevertheless, over the coming hours MITA will continue this analysis to collect further information and evidence on the attack. Concurrently the Information Security and Risk Management Department of MITA are providing the Police with the results being derived from this monitoring activity.

The US-based security advisory firm engaged by MITA has confirmed that the measures put in place by MITA are an appropriate and measured response to the event. They have also confirmed that these measures and the tighter policies and stronger password storage technology adopted by MITA have enormously limited the possibility and concerns of user credentials being decrypted in a short period of time.

As of last night, MITA has deployed a number of specialised teams of resources to handle the volume of incoming calls at its Service Call Centre, which provides services to all the employees in the public sector. Up to 1600hrs, the Call Centre handled 2,288 calls with the rate of refreshed accounts in one working day reaching the expected target levels. In the execution of this process, the direct engagement and commitment of Chief Information Officers in Ministries and public sector entities was crucial for the successful results registered.

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