GISEC 2021: Industry leaders outline shared strategy to combat sophisticated cybercriminals

Regional and global cybersecurity leaders used day one of GISEC 2021, the Middle East's and Africa's most influential and connected cybersecurity event, to outline the need for greater collaboration, knowledge sharing and trust building between public and private sectors to tackle increasingly innovative and sophisticated cybercriminals.

His Excellency Dr Mohamed Al-Kuwaiti, Head of Cyber Security, UAE Government, delivered the opening keynote of the ninth edition of GISEC, which runs at Dubai World Trade Centre, DWTC, until June 2, and reinforced that it is a case of when, not if, governments

and corporations will fall victim to a cyberattack. However, he called for collaborative efforts to identify new threats, anticipate the severity of attacks and limit reputational and operational damage.

"Cybercriminals will still find creative ways to breach our systems and platforms, and we want to be able to detect those malicious activities early, proactively, take swift action and minimise the impact," said Dr Al-Kuwaiti in his opening address. "Technology is only one solution. As threats become ever more sophisticated there is a need for international collaboration to govern behaviour in cyberspace

and enhance the security and trust that is essential to the functioning of a global digital economy.

"We need that collaboration to build a resilient cybersecurity platform. Global collaboration will drive the digital benefits for all, including small nations that need more support.

"We can do more. There are bad actors who are leveraging the same technologies that we are using to benefit humanity; they are leveraging them for bad means and to attack us all. We need to put our heads together to combat that."

Dare to share
Dr Al-Kuwaiti's views were echoed

by Craig Jones, Cybercrime Director, INTERPOL, who shared his experiences in an on-stage interview along with Colonel Saeed Al Hajri, Director, Cyber Crime Department, Dubai Police. Jones said that INTERPOL is working with countries to create knowledge sharing platforms in order to collaborate on best practices, and operations platforms to identify joint approaches that can monitor and eventually catch cybercriminals. "We have to protect ourselves. We have to identify those vulnerabilities, share information, share trust in order to target criminals, impact them and prevent crime," said Jones. Jones gave insight into how public-private partnerships have produced positive results in Nigeria by collapsing a criminal network responsible for phishing attacks.

Colonel Saeed Al Hajri, Director, Cyber Crime Department, Dubai Police, added: "We are working hard, through bilateral relations, police-to-police connections. Global connections and police-to-police intelligence sharing is key."

"We are working closely with the private sector – protecting them from attacks. We are giving them the knowledge they need to protect their businesses, their assets, their homes.

"Of course, we need to do more. Our messages to businesses, to individuals, is to keep anticipating what is next, keep innovating, we have the competency. Let us work together."

Meanwhile, Aloysius Cheang, Chief Security Officer, Huawei UAE, stressed the need for cross-industry collaboration to enhance systematic cybersecurity governance and unify cybersecurity standards.

OIC-CERT launches 5G Security Working Group to ensure end-to-end security for members

The Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation - Computer Emergency Response Team, OIC-CERT, a leading international cybersecurity platform, has launched a 5G security working group at GISEC, the Middle East and Africa's most influential and connected cybersecurity event, to ensure end-to-end cybersecurity for OIC member states.

The 5G security working group will be tasked with increasing awareness on the importance of 5G security among OIC members, develop a common 5G security framework for risk assessment and management and develop an open standard that can be used to mitigate any technical difficulties in rolling out the 5G.

The collaboration will strive to provide best practices, guidance and promote standardisation on an open and transparent platform to accelerate the seamless, cost-effective roll out of 5G among OIC member states.

Dato' Ts Dr Haji Amirudin Bin Abdul Wahab, CEO of CyberSecurity Malaysia, Permanent Secretariat of the OIC-CERT, and Malaysia representative, will co-chair the 5G security working group together with Huawei.

Eng Bader Al-Salehi, Chair of OIC-CERT, outlined the group aims to contribute to the global development of 5G by forming a trusted global ecosystem, adding: "Before 5G technology can be deployed, we need to ensure that the security challenges of this technology can be overcome. We believe that this initiative by the OIC-CERT will help resolve some security issues and accelerate 5G implementation, especially within the OIC community."

"Huawei has an excellent track record of empowering secure and resilient digital transformations in the UAE and the rest of the world. Together with Huawei, we are dedicated to providing expertise in cyber crisis management and develops capabilities to mitigate cyber threats by leveraging on global collaboration," said Abdul Wahab.

Fellow co-chair, Aloysius Cheang, Chief Security Officer of Huawei UAE, commented, "Huawei is dedicated to helping partners in the region address cybersecurity challenges while building cutting-edge networks. This collaboration is a direct reflection of our ongoing commitment. We are honoured to work with the OIC-CERT to provide guidance to the global cybersecurity ecosystem."

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SolarWinds CEO to deliver keynote address titled SolarWinds: Secure by Design on June 2

SolarWinds, a leading provider of powerful and affordable IT management software, has announced its participation at GISEC Expo & Conference from May 31 to June 2, 2021 in Dubai, UAE. SolarWinds President and Chief Executive Officer, Sudhakar Ramakrishna, will deliver a keynote address at GISEC, and the company will be represented by key Partner Spire to exhibit the SolarWinds IT operations management, ITOM, product portfolio.

SolarWinds President and Chief Executive Officer, Sudhakar Ramakrishna, will deliver a keynote address at GISEC on June 2, 2021 entitled, "SolarWinds: Secure by Design." Ramakrishna will share his unique perspective following the cyberattack against SolarWinds to help the industry better protect against and prevent similar attacks in the future.

At GISEC, Spire will showcase the SolarWinds ITOM products with demos for technology professionals exploring innovations that will help them

SUDHAKAR RAMAKRISHNA, President and CEO, SolarWinds.

streamline IT management. Spire will also share best practices on how IT pros and business leaders across the Middle East and North Africa can determine whether their existing ITOM solutions can support the vast array of technical challenges their organisations embraced in the last year to accommodate remote network access and remote work initiatives in the long term. In 2021, as organisations conquer the next normal and revisit the technologies they adopted last year, organisations must monitor them to ensure they work as expected and adjust as needed to keep up with the pace of change.

SolarWinds believes a comprehensive portfolio of ITOM tools is essential to today's evolving business challenges and has built a broad portfolio of connected products designed for monitoring and managing IT and to work together to deliver full visibility and control across multi-premises and multi-cloud architectures.

Acronis' cyber protection keeps football champions' data, apps, systems secure

Acronis, the global leader in cyber protection and technology partner of many of the world's leading sports teams, will be showcasing its latest solutions at GISEC Dubai at the World Trade Centre from 31 May to 2 June. During the event, Acronis will not only showcase the company's portfolio of cloud-based cyber protection solutions; it will also celebrate the professional football championships of several of their European sports partners. In world-class sports where victories are measured by increasingly slimmer margins, teams rely on data to gain a competitive edge, both on the field and in the business office. That valuable data must be

protected. Current champions Manchester City F.C., FC Internazionale Milano, AFC Ajax Amsterdam, and more, all rely on Acronis' innovative cyber protection solutions to keep their data, applications, and systems secure.

The fact that Acronis successfully ensures the protection and security of champions competing in such high-pressure environments shows why organisations in other industries also put cyber protection at the centre of their IT strategy.

Last year at the start of the pandemic, service providers had to rapidly transition clients to remote work. Indeed, 36% of respondents in the UAE said

that the biggest IT challenge their organisation has faced as a result of the shift to remote work was securing data of their employees remotely. Another 45% said that their organisation experienced data loss which resulted in business downtime. Given the greater sophistication of new cyberthreats, which target backup files and software to prevent recovery, standalone solutions are no longer enough to keep organisations protected. A new approach and new solutions are needed based on integrated cyber protection. Featuring the same technology that its sports partners and business customers rely on, Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud unifies cybersecurity, data

protection, and endpoint protection management in one service provider solution. It enables service providers to deliver comprehensive cyber protection services to protect organisations and their employees, regardless of where they are.

Because Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud comes with an essential set of cyber protection capabilities at no charge or as a pay-as-you-go model, the company is empowering service providers to build comprehensive cyber protection services for little to no upfront costs.

At GISEC 2021, Acronis will show Middle East service providers how they can build effective and profitable cyber protection services using Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud.

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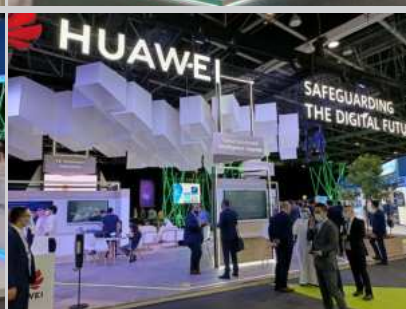- Unified Endpoint Management

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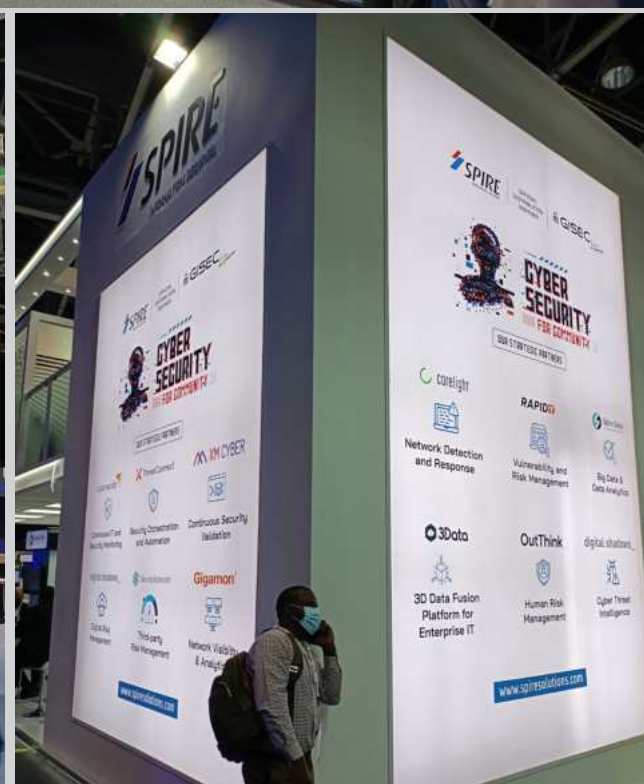
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Huawei to highlight smart government, cloud, 5G and cybersecurity at GISEC 2021

Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices, is participating at GISEC 2021 from May 31 to June 2, where it is showcasing its capabilities in Smart Government, Cloud and 5G, all built around a robust cybersecurity foundation. Huawei regional executives will also contribute to various plenary sessions during the event by exchanging knowledge and leveraging Huawei longstanding ICT expertise.

GISEC 2021 is the most influential cybersecurity event in the MENA region. The exhibition is a global platform that brings together world-class cybersecurity innovators, enterprises, and governments under one roof to collaborate, share ideas and explore new ways on how to achieve safer cyberspace for all. Of the solutions Huawei is showcasing is the 'Huawei Smart Government Solutions', which enables governments worldwide to transform from a traditional mode of operation to the next-gen digital smart, safe and secure cloud-based processes. Additionally, HUAWEI CLOUD will highlight its Intelligent Twins technologies which can deliver a smart experience for

people, cities, and enterprises in all scenarios, as part of its commitment to provide a reliable, secure, and cost-effective cloud services to empower applications, harness the power of data, and help organisations of all sizes grow in today's intelligent world. Additionally, the company is displaying its Enterprise Intelligence, EI, solution, the central theme of the fourth industrial revolution, which is accelerating digital transformation and significantly reshaping enterprises' business operation and value creation models. Huawei experts will also highlight

how 5G can empower industries within the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
Aloysius Cheang, CSO for Huawei UAE, will be discussing several topics during the event including "Achieving shared success in cybersecurity, the Huawei way: through technology Innovation and bridging cybersecurity divide via open standards and technical collaboration", "The 'Splinternet': its impact on Cybersecurity", and "Regional PPP on intergovernmental organisation and big tech". Huawei experts will spotlight as well on other topics such as 5G in Vertical Industries,

Securing the 5G Era, and Supply Chain Cyber Risk.
Commenting on Huawei's participation at the event, Jiawei Liu, CEO of Huawei UAE, said: "GISEC 2021 could not have come at a better time. The accelerated digital trends in the past year have significantly expanded the need for cybersecurity in organisations. Therefore, organisations must reinforce their security posture and boost their cyber defense capabilities. The event is an ideal platform to highlight the importance of our cybersecurity capabilities as an integrated ICT solutions provider."

Gartner forecasts worldwide security, risk management spending to cross $150B in 2021

Worldwide spending on information security and risk management technology and services is forecast to grow 12.4% in 2021, to reach $150.4 Billion, according to the latest forecast from Gartner, Security and risk management spending grew 6.4% in 2020.
Gartner analysts said the strong growth rate reflects continuing demand for remote worker technologies and cloud security. In the Gartner 2021 CIO Agenda Survey, cybersecurity was the top priority for new spending, with 61% of the more than 2,000 CIOs surveyed increasing investment in cyber/information

security this year.
Security services including consulting, hardware support, implementation and outsourced services represent the largest category of spending in 2021, at almost $72.5 Billion worldwide The smallest but fastest growing market segment is cloud security, particularly cloud access security brokers, CASB. Integrated risk management (IRM) technology is also seeing robust double-digit growth resulting from risks highlighted during the global pandemic crisis.
"Organisations continue to grapple with the security

and regulatory demands of public cloud and software as a service," said Lawrence Pingree, Managing Research Vice President at Gartner. "Looking ahead, we are seeing early market signals of growing automation and further adoption of machine learning technologies in support of AI security. To combat attacks, organisations will extend and standardise threat detection and response activities."
"The pace of client inquiry indicates that CASB is a popular choice for cloud-using organisations," said Pingree. "This is due to the growing

LAWRENCE PINGREE, Managing Research Vice President at Gartner.

popularity of using non-PC devices for interacting with core business processes, which creates security risks that can be mitigated effectively with a CASB. CASBs also enable safer interaction between SaaS applications and unmanaged devices."

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