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Committee: Security Council

Topic: Protecting the internet and its infrastructure from organized attacks

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Introduction to the committee

The Security Council of the United Nations has the principal and critical task for the conservation of international peace and security through its member states as well as other parts of the world. Upon its first session on January 17th, 1946, it has taken permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City. The Security Council has fifteen members, although five of them are permanent: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States. These are permanent due to their significance and their power structure after the Second World War. The other 10 non-permanent Members are elected by the UN General Assembly to serve for two-year terms. For a long time the Council has been a “source of hope and frustration for foreign policy-makers” writes Jessica Rettig. On the same article she interviews David Bosco, and explains the last twenty years of progress by the Security Council and their peacekeeping operations. These operations are deployed in over fourteen countries worldwide. It is safe to say that the Security Council holds one of the heaviest and most important tasks of the United Nations, maintaining peace.

The main role of the Security Council is to maintain and conserve peace and security. Whenever a threat to peace is brought to the Council, the first action the members take is to reach an agreement by peaceful means; in some cases, Security Council investigates the threat itself. In current times, it is the most powerful organ within the system of the United Nations.

Internet has become a very important part of our daily lives. However we must be aware of the dangers that it has if we do not protect it correctly.

While the Internet revolutionizes with the passage of time, so do its dangers. Without any online defense, people remain open to being victims of fraud, theft or even worse, since cyber attacks can cause electrical blackouts, failure of military equipment and breaches of national security sensitive information. Network security is vital to stay safe, and this responsibility is as much for the individual as for the government and private corporations.

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A cyber attack or cyber terrorism can be defined as a deliberate attempt by an individual or organization in order to violate an information system, usually the attacker seeks some kind of benefit by disrupting the victim's network.

Body

The Internet infrastructure comprehends the physical hardware, transmission media and software that interconnect devices. Businesses rely on their systems and data, meaning any interference can seriously affect markets and threaten the survival of companies.

Internet organized attacks can be classified in 3 types of crimes

Crimes Against People: Cyber harassment and stalking, distribution of child pornography, credit card fraud, human trafficking, spoofing, and identity theft.

Crimes Against Property: These crimes include DDOS attacks, hacking, virus transmission, cyber and typosquatting, computer vandalism, copyright infringement, and IPR violations. Computer hardware and servers are affected.

Crimes Against Government: These can be considered attacks on a nation's sovereignty. This include hacking, accessing confidential information, cyber warfare, cyber terrorism, and pirated software.

In 2016 there were 758 million attacks on internet according to KasperskyLab (one attack every 40 seconds). According to an FBI survey cyber terrorism is responsible for about 90% of all hacking activity.

In history, there have been a variety of organized attacks on the Internet such as The South Korean Nightmare in January 2014. Data from 100 million credit cards had been stolen. In addition, 20 million bank accounts were hacked too. Behind the theft was an employee of the Korean Credit Office (KCB), a solvency company. He stole personal information from customers of credit card companies when he worked for them as a consultant simply by copying the data to an external hard drive. Then he resold the data to credit merchants and telemarketing companies.

In May 2014, personal information and passwords of 145 million eBay users was compromised. The company said that hackers entered the company's network using the credentials of three corporate employees and had full internal access for 229 days, during which time they were able to access the user database.

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In 2017, United Nations joined major social media companies to launch Tech Against Terrorism, with the purpose of promoting positive links between the technological and governmental sectors.

Together with local security corporations, and international agencies such as EUROPOL and INTERPOL, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute collaborates to facilitate international law enforcement cooperation and judicial assistance.

Conclusion

Nowadays Cyber threats and attacks are becoming more frequent, sophisticated and damaging, and in order to preserve the security of the Internet and its infrastructure, we need to take action.

Due to the fast changing context of the situation, countries face difficulties in creating legislation, and research on the matter quickly becomes obsolete.

The following are some viable solutions that if implemented, can achieve a noticeable change and reduce organized attacks:

1. Critical infrastructure protection, including sharing of best practices, capacity building and policies;
2. Support in developing cyber defence capabilities, including new technologies and support to the construction of information technology infrastructure;
3. Cyber defence situation awareness.

References

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Useful web sources

- The official website for the United Nations www.un.org
- The official website for the United Nations Security Council: www.un.org/en/sc/.