

# IT LAW - Security Considerations Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

### **Coronavirus phishing scams**

Cyber criminals already try to benefit from the recent developments (Covid19) and are especially sending fake e-mails or social media messages that attempt to <u>obtain user credentials</u> or <u>install malware</u>. We therefore recommend to consider:

- 1. Implementing coronavirus-specific (keywords) phishing training of your employees and/or testing of your IT security systems;
- 2. Redistribution of any (IT-) company policies that cover the use of personal computers, smartphones, tablets and WLAN networks<sup>1</sup> for work and emphasize that:
  - a. company policies still apply to those working from home<sup>2</sup>;
  - b. employees should use <u>privacy screens or filters for mobile devices</u> to <u>protect sensitive information</u> from members of your household; and
- 3. Avoid sending legitimate emails to employees that look like phishing emails.

## Home Office / Remote Capacity / Ressources for the Help Desk

- 1. Consider <u>testing the company's remote capacity</u> by having many employees try to login remotely simultaneously, and consider adding or expanding use of secure, <u>web-based video conferencing</u> options which protect your privacy and are GDPR compliant. Ask you employees for consent to use their data.
- 2. Be aware of the additional burden on your IT help desk.
- 3. Agree with your Employees on a <u>way of identification</u> (esp. for the help desk).<sup>3</sup>

#### **Essential Employees / IT Infrastructure**

- 1. Ensure that <u>contact information is up to date</u> for key employees, especially mobile numbers.
- 2. Determine how many people, if any, will be needed <u>on-site to protect the network</u>.
- 3. Consider <u>backup personnel</u> in case some of those people become unavailable.
- 4. Coordinate with the company's key <u>third-party data vendors</u> to make sure that their cybersecurity contingency plans are adequate.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> E.g. no public WLAN hotspots

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Employees who experience difficulties working from home (e.g. printing) might try to use work arounds, such as emailing confidential documents to their personal email accounts so that they can be easily printed at home.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> E.g. phone number, two factor authentification,..