ENHANCED THREAT AWARENESS TOOL
Through Improved Security Monitoring and Shared Threat Intelligence

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROTECTIVE is designed to improve an organisation’s ongoing awareness of the risk posed to its business by cyber security attacks. PROTECTIVE makes two key contributions to achieve this enhanced situational awareness. Firstly, it increases the computer security incident response team’s (CSIRT) threat awareness through improved security monitoring and increased sharing of threat intelligence between organisations within a community. Secondly, it ranks critical alerts based on the potential damage the attack can inflict on the threatened assets and hence to the organisation’s business. High impact alerts that target important hosts will have a higher priority than other alerts. Through the combination of these two measures, organisations are better prepared to handle incoming attacks, malware outbreaks, and their security problems and to guide the development of the prevention and remediation processes.

The PROTECTIVE system is designed to provide solutions for public domain CSIRTs and SMEs who both have needs outside the mainstream of cyber security solution provision. Public CSIRTs’ needs arise in part because commercial tools do not address their unique requirements. This has created a shortfall, clearly articulated by ENISA, of tools with the required analytical and visualisation capabilities to enable public CSIRTs provide optimised services to their constituency. SMEs’ also are vulnerable to cybercrime as they have limited resources to protect themselves and often a limited understanding of what needs to be done. Two pilots will be conducted to evaluate and validate the PROTECTIVE outcomes with CSIRTs from 3 National Research and Educational Networks (NRENs) and with SMEs via a managed security service provider (MSSP).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

PROTECTIVE will develop a comprehensive solution to raise organisational cyber situational awareness (CSA) through:

- Enhancement of security alert correlation and prioritisation
- Linking of the relevance/criticality of an organisation’s assets to its mission
- Establishment of a threat intelligence sharing community

These three elements will be tightly woven to provide an integrated CSA platform that will be developed firstly for CSIRTs in the NREN community and later applied for further validation within the SME end-user community.

TECHNOLOGY OBJECTIVES

- **Enhance security monitoring through improved incident correlation and prioritisation**
- **Establish the criticality of an organisation’s assets to its mission**
- **Develop tools and techniques to establish community threat intelligence sharing**
- **Improve trust in the data quality of shared intelligence**
- **Develop software framework to support information flow processing**

PILOT OBJECTIVES

- **Demonstrate the operational efficiency of the developed solution in an NREN environment**
- **Evaluate the developed solutions to support SME security management**