



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008

### EMAIL NEWS

An increase in bank phishing emails again this week with Halifax claiming that their server does not recognize your computer and "Kindly follow the reference below in order to recognized your computer!!" The link leads to a website called insidegovernment.ie in Ireland which has now been shut down. Another attempt at Halifax bank requires you to verify your account due to several failed attempts to access your account. This link leads to a website in Utah USA which has now been suspended by the bank. Abbey have an email saying that there is an error in the verification of your account, the link leads to a very good copy of an Abbey site in Paris which has now been blocked.

Lloyds TSB are targeted by an email headed 'Security Precaution' warning that attempts have been made to change your contact profile and if you did not make this request you should click on the link which leads to a website called red-devils-echzell.de in Germany. There is also an email from Nat West warning that you have not yet completed the renewal of your online banking and you must validate your email address using the link which leads to a website owned by buakaew.com in Thailand.

CNet news is reporting on a new 'blackmailer virus' which is circulating: Antivirus software vendor Kaspersky is launching an international effort to try to crack the encryption used in a "blackmailer" virus that locks up data on a victim's computer.

The company announced the "Stop the Gpcode Virus" initiative Monday and extended a public invitation to all cryptography experts and other researchers, saying it has sufficient information about the virus to enable experts to begin working on factoring the RSA key.

Kaspersky also created a [special forum](#) for the effort. Kaspersky Lab said last week that it detected a new version of the [ransomware](#) type of Gpcode Virus that essentially holds your data hostage until you pay up. It encrypts files on the hard drive using an RSA algorithm with a 1024-bit key and leaves a message that advises the victim to buy a decryptor and provides an e-mail address to contact.

Kaspersky detects the new variant but is unable to crack the encryption key and has analysts working on that. The [virus is rated](#) a "moderate risk."

The Gpcode Virus was first detected in 2006. "Two years ago we were able to get the private key by detailed analysis of the data at our disposal," Kaspersky Lab [explained in a blog posting](#). "However, the maximum RSA key length we've been able to 'crack' to date is 660 bits. We were able to do this as the author had made some mistakes when implementing the encryption algorithm."

The encryption strength grows exponentially the more bits it has. People who believe their computers have been infected with the virus are advised not to restart or power down the machines. They should send an e-mail to [stopgpcode@kaspersky.com](mailto:stopgpcode@kaspersky.com) with details of the infection.

### BOGUS CALLERS

In UPPER NORWOOD an elderly female was returning to her back door when a white male in next doors garden told her that the Police had arrested a burglar breaking into her house and they had been caught counting cash outside. The victim was anxious to check her house and the suspect went into the house with her. She showed him where her money was kept and he stated that they had broken in through a bedroom window so she went to check. Upon her return the suspect had vanished with her money. The male was described as approx 5'08" tall, aged approx 30 to 35 years and with a foreign accent, no clothing details unfortunately.

## **SPECIAL CARPET DEALS**

A NW member in SOUTH NORWOOD has reported a male calling saying he was working nearby and had a roll of expensive carpet left over and would she like to buy it. This is an old scam where you buy the roll only to find later that it is a con with probably some old carpet used to fill out the roll.

Another member has forwarded a copy of a letter from a Michael Yang who claims to be an auditor in the bank of Singapore who has found an unused bank account containing 10.5 million US dollars where the owner is deceased and has the same surname as you. He offers to send 30% of the total to you if you contact him. No doubt he will need you to send him a cash advance to enable him to send the money after which you will never hear from him again.

## **INFORMATION FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS TEAM**

### **Emergency Exercise**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008, between 9am and 2pm, the Corporate Emergency Management Team of Croydon Council are testing their Emergency Response Plan. They will be exercising with the Borough Police, Borough Fire Brigade and the London Ambulance Service.

One of the aspects of the emergency arrangements that they are testing is the arrangements for what is called a 'Survivor Reception Centre'. This centre is where those who have been involved in a major incident such as a train crash will be gathered until they are ready to continue on their way. The aim is to offer comfort and some information in the early stages as well as the Police obtaining details of potential witnesses.

How can you assist us? We need to have volunteers to pass through the process of registration and being provided 'comfort' as if you have been involved in a major incident. The benefit to us is that we can get real feed back as to how it works from a survivor perspective. The possible benefit to you is that you have a better understanding of what is involved in the response to such incidents.

We will be providing refreshments including a lunch during the exercise. Those who do volunteer will be covered by the Council's insurance. Unfortunately there is no payment for assisting us in this event.

If you are able to assist please contact Tony Morris on 020 8760 5532 or [tony.morris@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:tony.morris@croydon.gov.uk) or Anna Bastow on 020 8760 5678 or [Anna.Bastow@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Bastow@croydon.gov.uk)

### **Purley & Kenley Neighbourhood Partnership**

Are you interested in the future of Purley Town Centre? If so, you are invited to a Community Planning Weekend on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 July 2008 at Purley Baptist Church, Banstead Road, Purley. The aim of the weekend is to bring together local people and stakeholders to create a Vision for Purley Town Centre.

The Community Planning Weekend is a key stage in the development of the Vision and an opportunity for local people to have their say and to think afresh about the future of the town centre. The weekend will be facilitated by John Thompson and Partners (JTP) architects, urban designers and community planners and transport planners, Alan Baxter and Associates, on behalf of the council. This [leaflet](#) includes a programme for the event which has been structured to allow people to drop-in for a short while or stay for one or both days can be viewed using this link.

The outcomes from the weekend will be reported back to the community at a meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 July at Purley United Reform Church, Purley. If you would like any more information please contact Catherine Radziwonik on 020 8604 7028 (x47028) or [catherine.radziwonik@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.radziwonik@croydon.gov.uk) or Nicola Forde at JTP on 020 7405 1211 or [nf@jtp.co.uk](mailto:nf@jtp.co.uk)

## **CO-ORDINATORS AUDIT FORMS**

A big thank you from Sarah Gardner to all those co-ordinators who have already returned their Audit forms and for those co-ordinators who have requested window stickers they are being dispatched over the next few weeks.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH OFFICE Telephone: 020 8649 0318**