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# Online Broker Cybersecurity: Insights & Strategies from Practitioners

Friday, 14 July 2017

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	13 July 2016 at 9:38 AM	
To:		
Reply-To:		
Payment		

Hi Michael,

Please find enclosed vendor banking instructions for a payment that was suppose to go out in the previous week. I need you to process it immediately.

I am a bit busy now but will give you a call within the hour regarding the payment.

Regards,

Sent from my Mobile







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## Agenda and speakers



JP Reimann Regulatory Lead FinFabrik



Legal and regulatory perspectives on Cybersecurity in Hong Kong



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Vulnerability Assessment & Penetration Testing



Dominic Wai Partner ONC Lawyers



Dmitri Hubbard General Counsel Blue Dragon



Practical strategies to maintain a compliant, cyber resilient business



Dr. Florian M Spiegl Co-Founder FinFabrik

## Cybersecurity as a major topic in brokerage

### **DIGITAL DATA**

Value continues to migrate online – digital data has become more pervasive.

### **CORPORATE CULTURE**

Corporations are expected to be more 'open' than ever before.

## **SUPPLY CHAIN** Supply chains are increasingly interconnected.

### **OLD SYSTEMS**

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Existing trading systems are at the end of their lifecycle.

### SOPHISTICATED CRIMINALS

Malevolent actors are becoming more sophisticated.





## Regulation and Cybersecurity in HK

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## Regulation and cybersecurity in HK





## **HK Cybersecurity Regime**



- **Statutory Bodies**
- 1) Hong Kong Computer Emergency **Response Team Coordination Centre** (HKCERT)(HKPC)(Statutory Body)
- 2) Centre for coordination of computer security incident response for local enterprises and internet users.

**Electronic Crime Investigation Centre** 

1)





## Criminal and Civil Responses (I/V)

#### **Offences**

- "Unauthorised access to a computer by telecommunications" (s.27A of the Telecommunications Ordinance)(Cap 106)
- "Access to a computer with criminal or dishonest intent" (s.161 of the Crimes Ordinance)(Cap 200)
- "Disclosing Personal Data Obtained without consent from Data Users"
  - with an intent to obtain gain in money or other property, whether for the benefit of the person or another person; or
  - To cause loss in money or other property to the data subject. (s.64 of the PDPO)(Cap 486)
- DPP4 data users should take all practical steps to ensure that personal data held by the data user are protected against unauthorised or accidental access, processing, erasure, loss or use.



# Criminal and Civil Responses (II/V)

- Criminal damage destroying or damaging property (Crimes Ordinance, ss 59(1A), 60(1))
- To destroy or damage any property in relation to a computer includes the misuse of a computer.
- Misuse of a computer
  - To cause a computer to function other than as it has been established to function by or on behalf of its owner, notwithstanding that the misuse may not impair the operation of the computer or a program held in the computer or the reliability of data held in the computer;
  - To alter or erase any program or data held in a computer or in a computer storage medium;
  - To add any program or data to the contents of a computer or of a computer storage medium.
  - And any act which contributes towards causing the misuse of a computer as described above shall be regarded as causing it.



# Criminal and Civil Responses (III/V)

- But no definition of a computer in the relevant ordinances.
- Recent cases ruled mobile phones and smartphones are "computers" under s.161 of Crimes Ordinance.
- Meaning of "computer" s.22A of Evidence Ordinance (Cap 8) documentary evidence from computer records
  - "Any device for storing, processing or retrieving information, and any reference to information being derived from other information is a reference to its being derived therefrom by calculation, comparison or any other process."





## Criminal and Civil Responses (IV/V)

- Police investigation
  - CED for Copyright Ordinance against providing device or services for "jail breaking" s.273C(1)(d)(Cap 528)
- Online report of cybercrime
- Interpol Global Complex for Innovation (Singapore)
- Mutual Legal assistance on criminal matters
- The relevant ordinances on cybercrime mainly are not extraterritorial.
  - Save for CJO (Cap 461) for Theft



## Criminal and Civil Responses (V/V)

### Law Enforcement

- Companies should maintain a close connection with various law enforcement representatives to discuss before an incident occurs: "
  - When should the company report the incident to them.
  - How the reporting should be performed.
  - What evidence is needed.
  - How evidence should be collected.



## Unauthorised stock trading (I/VI)

"Hacking of internet trading accounts is the most serious cybersecurity risk faced by internet brokers in Hong Kong.

If you ask regulators in the industry what is the number one threat, not surprisingly it's all about cyber attacks.

We've seen that happen not only in banking but also at brokers in Hong Kong, in particular recent attacks to do with basically hijacking share trading accounts."

Reuters - Ashley Alder, CEO of the SFC and chairman of the International Organization of Securities Commissions, in a LegCo speech, February 2017.



## Unauthorised stock trading (II/VI)

- On 8 May 2017, SFC launched a 2-month consultation on proposals to reduce and mitigate hacking risks associated with internet trading
  - For the 18 months ended 31 March 2017,12 licensed corporations (LCs) reported 27 cybersecurity incidents, most of which involved hackers gaining access to customers internet-based trading accounts with securities brokers resulting in unauthorised trades totalling more than \$110 million when some others involved DDoS attacks targeting their websites accompanied by threats of extortion.



## Unauthorised stock trading (III/VI)

- Hacking incidents and potential root causes
- The hacking incidents reported by licensed internet brokers remain under Police investigation. However, the Police shared case studies suggesting that hackers used compromised internet trading accounts to carry out a pump-and-dump scheme which could lead to substantial financial losses. Such schemes typically follow these steps:
  - (a) Hackers first gain control of clients' internet trading accounts (hacked accounts) which enables them to log into the accounts "legitimately" to effect unauthorised transactions;
  - (b) Hackers then employ people to open other internet trading accounts to accumulate penny stocks;



## Unauthorised stock trading (IV/VI)

- (c) Using the cash in the hacked accounts, or cash raised by selling off existing stock holdings in the hacked accounts, hackers then buy these penny stocks in order to pump up their stock prices; and
- (d) After the prices of the penny stocks go up, hackers off-load them and make a profit, leaving the owners of the hacked accounts to suffer significant losses.





## Unauthorised stock trading (V/VI)

- SFC's proposal in the consultation:
  - Propose to incorporate new guidelines which set out baseline cybersecurity requirements for internet brokers to address hacking risks and vulnerabilities and to clarify expected standards of cybersecurity controls.
  - Key proposed requirements include 2-factor authentication for clients' system login and prompt notification to clients of certain activities in their internet trading accounts.



## Unauthorised stock trading (VI/VI)

- In addition, the SFC proposes to expand the scope of cybersecurity-related regulatory principles and requirements which now apply to electronic trading of securities and futures on exchanges to cover the internet trading of securities which are not listed or traded on an exchange. This includes authorised unit trusts and mutual funds because they are subject to the same hacking risks.
- The SFC also proposes to update the definition of "internet trading" to clarify that an internet-based trading facility may be accessed through a computer, mobile phone or other electronic device.

# Case study - Unauthorised stock trading – 2016 (I/II)

- P is a HK company engaged in the trading of securities, options and futures contracts, and investment holding.
- D is a corporation licensed to carry on Type 1 (dealing in securities) regulated activities under SFO (Cap 571) and also an Exchange Participant of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited and Hong Kong Futures Exchange Limited.
- P has a securities account with D that can be operated online with the use of specified user ID and password for online access to the account for the purpose of carrying out transactions for the sale and purchase of securities. According to P, there are only 3 persons in the company who are authorized to access and operate the account with D and conduct online securities transactions with the account.

# Case study - Unauthorised stock trading – 2016 (II/II)

- On 23 Sept 2016, between 14:40 and 15:22, unauthorized person(s) logged into P's account with D with a valid user ID and password from an IP address and in the space of 18 minutes, bought a total of 49.2m shares in a Listco from a total of 76 selling brokers at a purchase cost of HK\$37.69m (including fees and levies), draining almost all of the HK\$37.85m cash in the account.
- The 49.2m shares represent 4.92% of the Listco's shareholding at an average price of HK\$0.7636 per share, 36% above the previous day's close.
- There was a huge spike in the volume and price of the Listco on 23 Sept 2016: the traded volume was 92.568m shares or 9.26% of the ListCo and the price at one point reached HK\$0.88, up 57.1% on the previous close of HK\$0.56, before closing at HK\$0.66, up 17.9%.



# Expected near-term changes to cybersecurity regulatory environment (I/II)

## HKMA Cybersecurity Fortification Initiative (CFI)

A comprehensive initiative and a supervisory requirement for banks in Hong Kong to implement to raise the level of cybersecurity through a three-pronged approach (HKMA Circular 24 May 2016):

#### Cyber Resilience Assessment Framework

Seeks to establish a common riskbased framework for banks to assess their own risk profiles and determine the level of defence and resilience required.
Draft framework issued to the banking industry for consultation for 3 months. Professional Development Programme •Training and certification programme in Hong Kong which aims to increase the supply of qualified professionals in cybersecurity, who will be able to conduct risjk assessments. •HKMA will work with Hong Kong Institute

of Bankers (HKIB) and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI) to roll out the first training courses for cybersecurity practitioners by the end of 2016 Cyber Intelligence Sharing Platform •Will allow sharing of cyber threat Intelligence among banks in order to enhance collaboration and improve cyber resilience. •HKMA will work with The Hong Kong

Association of Banks (HKAB) and ASTRI to establish the Cyber Intelligence Sharing Platform by the end of 2016.

All banks expected to join.

# Expected near-term changes to cybersecurity regulatory environment (II/II)

- Cybersecurity regime
  - No centralised arrangement or policy initiative to tackle cybersecurity and no plan to change the existing arrangement [see response of ITB to LCQ8: Cyber security, 7 Dec 2016]



## Trends and challenges

## Emails

## Attack Trends

- Against less mature financial services organisations
- ATM attacks
- Nation-states hunting for PII
- Espionage targets on China's periphery

## Target Industries

- Construction and engineering
- Financial Governments
- High Tech and Electronics





# Vulnerability Assessment & Penetration Testing

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# Making security part of broker business





## SFC Suggestions – March 2016



33 | 🔁 Fin Fabrik

- i. Establish a strong governance framework to supervise cybersecurity management;
- ii. Implement a formalised cybersecurity management process for service providers;

iii. Enhance **security architecture** to guard against advanced cyber-attacks;

iv. Formulate information protection programs to ensure sensitive information flow is protected;

v. Strengthen **threat**, intelligence and **vulnerability management** to **pro-actively identify** and remediate cybersecurity vulnerabilities;

vi. Enhance incident and crisis management procedures with more details of latest cyber-attack scenarios;

vii. Establish adequate backup arrangements and a written contingency plan with the incorporation of the latest cybersecurity landscape; and

viii. Reinforce user access controls ensuring access to information is granted to users on a need-to-know basis.

# Cyber Response along predefined steps



Prevent

What security controls do we need?



Can you protect client trading accounts, infrastructure?

3 Respond

Who does what when and how when a crisis occurs?

## 4 Investigate

How can we simulate and crisis to prepare?

Recover

Knowing our weakness, how do we move on?

by us, our industry and the HKSFC?

What threats have been identified



*Contingencies, roles, communication.* 

Penetration testing Social engineering Spear phishing

Implementation of improvements







## Blue team vulnerability assessment







1	Cyber risk assessment	Identify risks	HKSFC Cyber threat intelligence SANS 20
2	Service providers and third parties	Control risks outside	Due diligence Supplier vetting Encryption
3	Cybersecurity awareness	Enhance understanding inside	Staff knowledge Staff behaviour Mgmt approach
4	Incident response	Contingency planning	Penetration testing Social engineering Spear phishing
5	Data protection	Identify personal information, crown jewels	Implementation of improvements

## Red team penetration assessment







# Strategic approaches to build compliant cyber resilience



# Cybersecurity needs to be focused: pitfalls in security assessments



Cybersecurity performance can be managed, but only if measured.

Tiny percentage of sophisticated attacks represent true risk, rather than the millions of attacks from "script kiddies".

Lagging indicators vs leading indicators: attacks vs extend of encryption. Looking at cybersecurity organisation vs enterprise resilience.

Easy to incur too much cost and create too much complexity. Encryption of every piece of data and 2FA to every system.



## High spend does not equal high security

**Budgeting** Start with holistic and comprehensive risk assessment. Controls

Assure appropriate, efficient and continuous risk mitigation.

\*

### Humans

Major sources of cyber threats are human brain (curiosity, ignorance, apathy etc).

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**Spending** Cybersecurity spending to hit USD 170 billion by 2020.

-~~

ROI

Spending millions on security technology can make executives feel safe without real impact.

#### Defence

First and last line of defense are prepared leaders and employees, whether inside an organisation or of the supply chain.

# Cybersecurity needs to be business-driven: protect without slowing innovation & growth



#### PROTECTION

Protecting technology assets from malicious damage requires intelligent constraints.

#### THREATS

Insufficient safeguards result in loss of critical data.

### SOFTWARE

Slow security software can cause employees to abandon corporate laptops and e-mail services for personal devices and webmail..

### CONTROLS

Overly stringent controls can get in the way of doing business or have other adverse effects..

## An integrated, broad approach works best

- Who is responsible for cross-functional approach?
- Are business leaders (as opposed to IT or risk executives) owning this topic?
- Which information is most critical, and what is "value at stake" in event of breach?
- How are we using technology and business processes to protect critical information?
- How does our approach compare with peers and best practices?
- Is our approach evolving and changing?
- As an industry, are we working together and with government entities to reduce cybersecurity threats?

![](_page_40_Figure_8.jpeg)

## Steps in control functions - resilient approach

#### STEP 1 Implement multiyear programs to classify corporate data.

#### STEP 3

**Evaluate cyberrisk** profile across the full value chain.

#### STEP 5

Make cybersecurity a core part of the customer value proposition, establishing an ongoing dialogue.

![](_page_41_Figure_6.jpeg)

Cybersecurity is a business opportunity convenient and secure end-to-end customer experiences.

#### STEP 2

**Protect most critical business assets** or processes (such as customer credit card information)— a "business-back" approach.

#### STEP 4

#### **Clarify expectations with vendors**

and enhancing collaboration with key business partners.

Concrete first steps: get clarity on your cyber resilience and raise awareness

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

Prepare your workforce: build awareness, offer tailored training, drill your technical staff Run a cybersecurity health check: assess security controls and capability maturity of organisation and processes Perform a training session to enable Csuite: tabletop simulation or war-gaming exercise

Ensure that training and communication agenda includes cybersecurityrelated offerings Develop or check attack response plans, and verify external vendor readiness

Start to build a cybersecurity management system, or launch a review of your existing one.

## Taking a step back

Avoid common pitfalls

Focus spending where it is most effective

Choose a broadly integrated approach: enterprise resilience over cybersecurity organisation

Start with concrete, focused steps: get your technology right

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Technology in brokerage cybersecurity: a deep dive excursion

Marcel van der Vliet CTO, FinFabrik

![](_page_44_Picture_3.jpeg)

Application Topology Diagram Infrastructure Diagram Level 3 network Diagram VLAN and VM Diagram Load Balancers and Firewalls

Technical diagrams as shown in the live presentation available on request

![](_page_46_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Q&A

![](_page_46_Picture_2.jpeg)

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