



# Fighting COVID-19 The EC3 Support

RIPE80  
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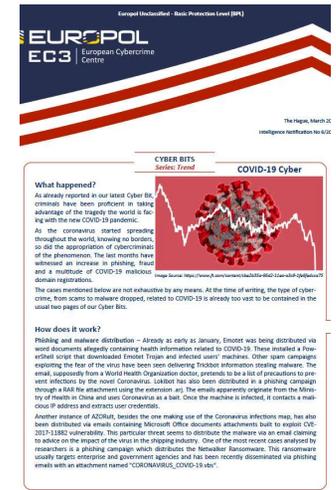
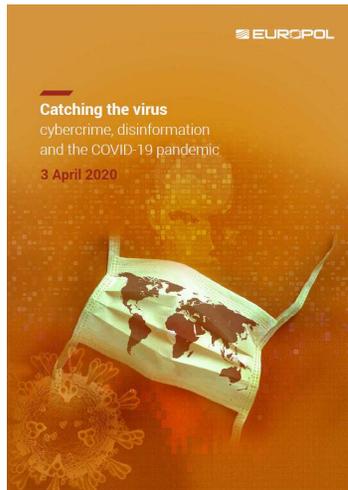
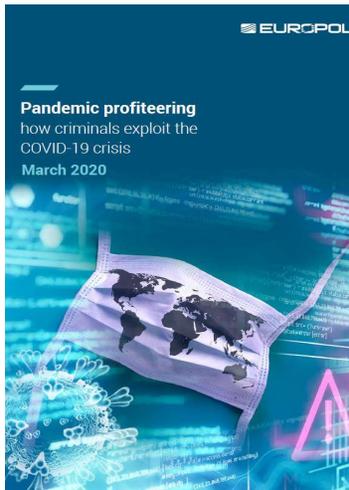
Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level

A photograph of a modern building facade, likely a Europol office. The building is dark with large windows. The word "EUROPOL" is prominently displayed in large, white, stylized letters on the right side of the building. The image has a teal color cast. A dark blue diagonal shape overlaps the left side of the image.

EUROPOL

## Strategic overview and coordination

# ▶ Regular reporting to stakeholders



Products created as Restricted, BPL and Public versions, shared through SIENA, Europol LBs, Europol website, Social Media and the Europol Platform for Experts.

## ▶ Criminal trends COVID-19: Cyber-dependent and enabled crime



### Ransomware

- Faster and targeted ransomware attacks
- Criminals recruit collaborators to help them maximise their impact
- Ransomware-as-a-service



### DDoS

DDoS extortion campaigns (more damage due to extreme technical dependency)



### Phishing

COVID-19 topic used to lure victims to click fake links claiming to provide COVID-19 related information (e.g. registered deaths)



### Malicious Domain Name

These registered domain names form the backbone of many criminal operations. There are currently ongoing discussions between EC3, DG HOME, registries/ars and the J-CAT to tackle the criminal use of malicious COVID related domains

## ▶ Criminal trends COVID-19: Child Sexual Exploitation



### Increase in...



Reports from the public  
Attempts to initiate online contact with children  
Downloads on P2P sharing networks  
Speculations amongst offenders about online activity of children



### Main risks

Grooming, SGEM, Sexual coercion and extortion, sexting, bullying, accessing pornography and violent content online.



### Outlook

The global impact of COVID-19 means people will be spending more time online. Children may:

- be more exposed to offenders
- be more inclined towards making explicit material to exchange with peers
- become lonely and isolated, thus willing to connect

## ▶ Criminal trends related to COVID-19: Dark Web



### New opportunities

- Perfect environment to sell fake and counterfeit articles anonymously
- Most frequent: chloroquine, masks and test kits
- COVID-19 sales and discounts



### Demand

Minimal technical barriers of entry make the dark web freely accessible by both ordinary citizens and criminal groups.



### Distribution

Besides COVID-19 related items being sold on dark web marketplaces, masks and medication are also being offered on Telegram on Openbazaar

# ► COVID-19: Prevention and awareness

## STAYING SAFE DURING COVID-19: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Criminals have quickly adapted their techniques to exploit our fears around the COVID-19 pandemic. Their main aim is profit by any means necessary.

Our desire for COVID-19 news is the perfect opportunity for criminals to dupe more victims looking for information and in-demand products and services.

### COVID-19 – QUICK LINKS

Been a victim of a COVID-19 scam?  
Report it to your national police.

Want to know more about COVID-19?

Always check official channels like the World Health Organization or your national health authority.



## Make your home a cyber safe stronghold

Lots of EU citizens have been asked to stay at home, taking their personal and work lives online. From smarthomes to smartphones, are you sure your devices are cyber safe?

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



## Teleworking vulnerabilities

Encouraging staff to work from home can have positive effects on businesses – it can

provide flexibility and solve office space issues. But if not done properly, teleworking can expose a company's vulnerabilities and lead to data leaks.

Make your online office as safe as can be with our tips.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

- ✓ Dedicated page on the Europol website with everything you need to know on staying safe online & offline during COVID-19
- ✓ Updated weekly
- ✓ Links to reports & press releases

- ✓ COVID-19 cyber safety related awareness messages promoted through Europol and EC3 social media, Europol website and EC3 SPACE
- ✓ Amplification through stakeholders
- ✓ Some materials available in over 20 languages

# ▶ COVID-19: Prevention and awareness

### MAKE YOUR HOME A CYBER SAFE STRONGHOLD

**WIFI:** always change the default router password

Install antivirus software on all devices connected to the internet

Review your apps' permissions and delete those you don't use

Choose strong and different passwords for your email and social media accounts

Secure electronic devices with passwords, PIN or biometric information

Review the privacy settings of your social media accounts

Back up your data and run regular software updates

Secure your corporate communications

Online shopping safety tips

- Buy from reliable online vendors and check individual ratings
- Use credit cards when shopping online for stronger customer protection
- Think twice: if an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is
- Check your bank account often for suspicious activity

### SAFE TELEWORKING

FOR BUSINESSES	FOR EMPLOYEES
Establish corporate policies and procedures	Access company data with corporate equipment
Secure your teleworking equipment	Think before connecting
Provide secure remote access	Use secure remote access
Secure your corporate communications	Protect your teleworking equipment and environment
Increase your security monitoring	Stay alert
Raise staff awareness about the risks of teleworking	Develop new routines
Regularly check in with the staff	Report suspicious activity
Avoid giving out personal information	Be careful when using private devices for telework
Keep device operating systems and apps updated	Keep business and leisure apart

### YOUR LIFE IS ONLINE - PROTECT IT!

**BE 'CLICK SMART'**  
don't click on links that come from unknown or unusual emails

**THINK BEFORE UPLOADING**  
videos or pictures of yourself, your family or home

**KEEP YOUR PRIVATE STUFF PRIVATE**  
like passwords, personal information and location

**KEEP YOUR FRIENDS REAL**  
don't befriend people online that you have never met offline

**KNOW WHAT TO DO**  
If something online makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried:  
Stop any possible communication  
Don't delete anything  
Look for help

### #SayNO!

- If someone asks you to say or do things you don't want to.
- If someone threatens you with sharing your photos and/or videos if you don't do as they say.
- If someone asks you to keep your chat a secret.
- If someone reacts in a nasty way when you don't do what they want.
- If somebody asks to join your private chats/networks.
- Never webcam with a stranger with a broken webcam.

### STUCK AT HOME? STREAM LEGALLY AND KEEP YOUR DIGITAL LIFE SAFE

THE INTERNET IS A LIFELINE IN TIMES OF SOCIAL DISTANCING.

BUT BEWARE WHEN DOWNLOADING MUSIC, MOVIES AND SOFTWARE ILLEGALLY.

THEY CAN INFECT YOUR COMPUTER WITH VIRUSES WHICH CAN PUT YOUR PERSONAL DATA AND PAYMENT INFORMATION AT RISK.

ONLY USE AUTHORISED ONLINE MEDIA STREAMING IPTV PLATFORMS.

- KEEP YOUR BANK ACCOUNT SAFE!
- KEEP YOUR DEVICES MALWARE FREE!

### YOU WON'T FIND A COVID-19 CURE ONLINE

CRIMINALS ARE MAKING MONEY FROM THIS GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS.

THOUSANDS OF WEBSITES CLAIM TO SELL COVID-19 CURES, TESTS OR VACCINES. THEY ARE FAKE.

UNAUTHORISED SELLERS ADVERTISE COUNTERFEIT FACE MASKS, VITAMINS AND DISINFECTANTS. THEY ARE DANGEROUS.

CRIMINALS PREY ON CONCERNED CITIZENS AND OFFER UNBRANDED MEDICAL PRODUCTS. THEY ARE HARMFUL.

- ONLY RELY ON OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES.
- ONLY BUY FROM LICENSED SELLERS.
- ONLY USE LEGITIMATE WEBSITES OFFERING SAFE PAYMENT OPTIONS.

### International Edition

## COVID-19 Global ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE for parents and carers

EUROPEAN COMMISSION | EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS | EUROPEAN COUNCIL

EUROPEAN POLICE COOPERATION CENTRE

EUROPEAN CYBERSECURITY CENTRE



# Operational support

# CORONA CRIMES: SUSPECT BEHIND €6 MILLION FACE MASKS AND HAND SANITISERS SCAM ARRESTED THANKS TO INTERNATIONAL POLICE COOPERATION

06 April 2020

*Press Release*



A 39-year old man has been arrested in Singapore for his suspected involvement in money laundering offences linked to a business email scam-related to COVID-19.

# CORONA CRIMES: MULTI-MILLION FACE MASK SCAM FOILED BY POLICE ACROSS EUROPE

14 April 2020  
Press Release



Thank you for your  
attention

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[www.europol.europa.eu](http://www.europol.europa.eu)

