



CERT-MU Security Alert

WhatsApp 6 Digits Verification Code Scam

Issue Date: 20 November 2020

Description

Incidents have been reported to CERT-MU with regards to a WhatsApp Scam targeting mobile phone users in Mauritius. Mobile phone users are receiving Fake WhatsApp messages with a 6 digits verification code along with a link with the aim to hack their WhatsApp account and gain access to all the contacts and contents being shared using the mobile app. The hacked WhatsApp account is then used to send the same message to the contacts/friends. As a result, their accounts are also hacked.

Methodology of attack

1. The mobile user receives a message on WhatsApp along with a 6 digits verification code and a link. The user is requested to click on the link to enter verification code. This is shown below:

Your WhatsApp Code

xxx xxx

You can also tap on this link to verify your phone:

y.whatsapp.com/xxxxxx

Don't share this code with others

2. Upon clicking on the link, the user receives a message that an SMS has been sent and he will receive the code.
3. When the user receives the code, he tries to insert the code. The code does not work and his WhatsApp account is blocked (hacked).

4. The hacker gets all the contact information including information about friends, contents shared on WhatsApp amongst others.
5. The contacts of the hacked account receives a message on behalf of the account holder stating the following:

Hi

Hello, sorry I sent you a 6-digit code by SMS by mistake.

Can you pass it to me please? It is urgent

6. When the contact/friend of the hacked account copies and send the code through his/her WhatsApp account, his/her account is also locked.
7. The same process is then repeated.

CERT-MU wishes to inform you that to be cautious if you receive such message and delete the message accordingly. Do not insert the code or click on the link as this will compromise your WhatsApp account.

In case you become victim, please report the incident on MAUCORS.

Report Cyber Incidents

Let us unite together for a Safe Mauritian cyberspace during this crisis situation.

Report cyber security incident on the **Mauritian Cybercrime Online Reporting System (MAUCORS - <http://maucors.govmu.org>)**

Contact Information

Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU)

National Computer Board

Hotline No: (+230) 800 2378

Fax No: (+230) 208 0119

Gen. Info. : contact@cert.ncb.mu

Incident: incident@cert.ncb.mu

Website: <http://cert-mu.org.mu>

MAUCORS: <http://maucors.govmu.org>