BUILDING NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY CAPACITY IN NIGERIA: THE JOURNEY SO FAR

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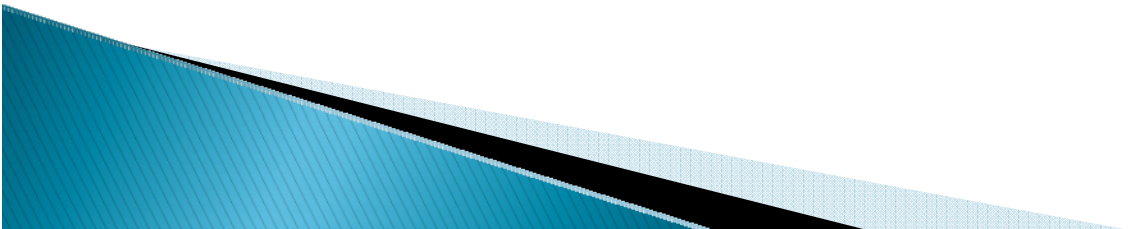
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Introduction

- Nigeria has population of over 150 Million.
- Youth mostly Educated to High school Constitute over 40% of the Population.
- Key Economic Activities are in areas Oil & Gas, Banking, Agriculture and Manufacturing industries. It is the Economic Hub of the West African sub region.
- Advent of Internet in Nigeria was in the mid 90s, then used mostly by Multinational firms for Legitimate Business.
- Service was only available through the Government owned Nigerian Telecommunication Company.

Introduction Cont.

- Subscription was very Expensive and usage limited.
- During the Deregulation of Telecom Sector of late 1990s, few more private ISPs were licensed and access became less expensive.
- With the proliferation of ISPs and Cybercafés in the country Fraudsters started using the Internet, instead of the Regular Mails and Fax.
- Government became Alarmed with the Misuse of Cyberspace by the Fraudsters.

Cybersecurity Issues In Nigeria

- Website Cloning(e.g. Banks, Telecomms etc.)
- Phishing(e.g. Username, Password, Card Info)
- E-commerce fraud(e.g in Ebay Transaction)
- Credit card fraud(e.g Card scheming, Generating Card Info etc.)
- Advance Fee Fraud(a.k.a 419)
  ◦ Re-shipping fraud
  ◦ Romance fraud
  ◦ Inheritance fraud
  ◦ Lottery scam
  ◦ Crude oil sales scam etc.

Steps Taken by the Nigerian Government

- In 2003 The President of Nigeria set up a Committee to Investigate the Activities of these Fraudsters on Cyberspace.
- Also in 2003 Government set up Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to Tackle the menace of Corruption, Advance Fee Fraud and Money laundering.
- The Presidential Committee came-up with National Cybersecurity Initiative (NCI) which has the following objectives :
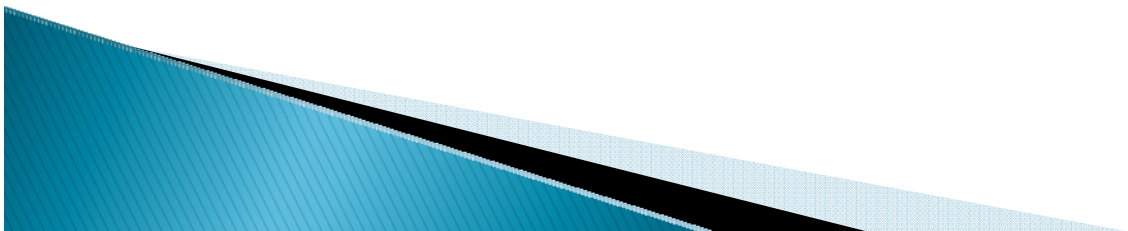
# Objectives of National Cybersecurity Initiative(NCI)

- Public Enlightenment of the Nigerian Populace on the nature and danger Cybercrime.
- Criminalization through new Legislation of all on-line vices.
- Institutional Capacity Building across Law Enforcement Agencies to extend Statutory Functions on Cybercrime related issues.

Objectives of NCI Cont...

- Establishment of Legal and Technical Framework to Secure Computer Systems and Networks, and Protect Critical Information Infrastructure for the country.
- Creation of a platform for public-private stakeholders collaboration to set Guidelines and Standards for Cybersecurity in Nigeria.
- Building International Law Enforcement Cooperation and Collaboration with other Agencies Worldwide to enable Nigeria tackle the menace of Cybercrime.

Nigerian Cybercrime Working Group (NCWG)

- In 2004 Government then set up the Nigeria Cybercrime Working Group(NCWG) to realize the Objectives of NCI .
- NCWG team was made up of Government officials ICT related Ministries and Departments as well as Law Enforcement Agencies.
- It was mandated to implement the NCI Objectives within two years.
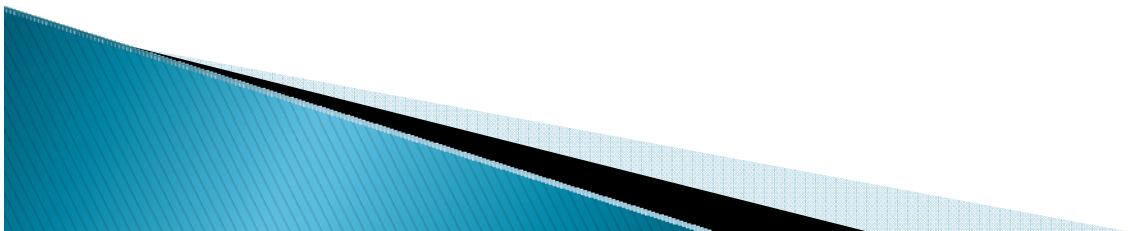
NCWG Cont...

- NCWG conducted Public Enlightment on Cybercrime successfully among Public and Private Institutions in Nigeria.
- Drafted Computer Security and Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Bill.
- Nigeria through the EFCC joined the G8 – 24/7 Network of High Tech Crime Group (US Dept of Justice).
- A number of cases on Cybercrime are now being Investigated and Prosecuted in Nigeria (e.g. Operation Cyberstorm)

Directorate of Cybersecurity (DOC)

- In 2006 Directorate of Cybersecurity under the Office of the National Security Adviser was created to sustain the Good work of NCWG.
- DOC is presently the apex body that Coordinates the Activities of Cybersecurity in Nigeria.
- Its Mandate is the implementation of the NCI objectives.
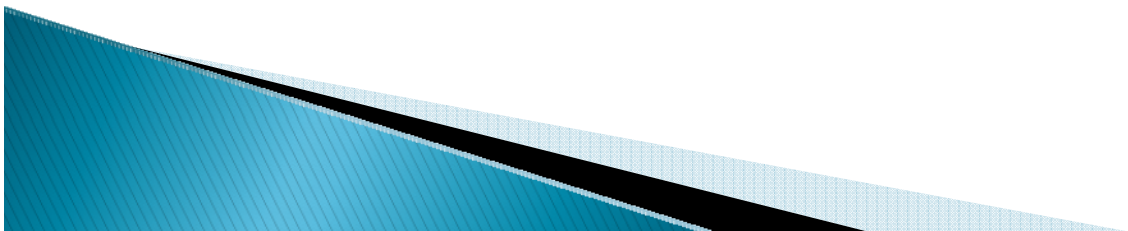
Activities of DOC

- Develop a framework for National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), www.cert.gov.ng .
- Establishing collaboration with CERTs around the world.
- Establishing a National Computer Forensic Laboratory and Coordinating the training and utilization of the facility by all Law Enforcement Agencies in Nigeria.
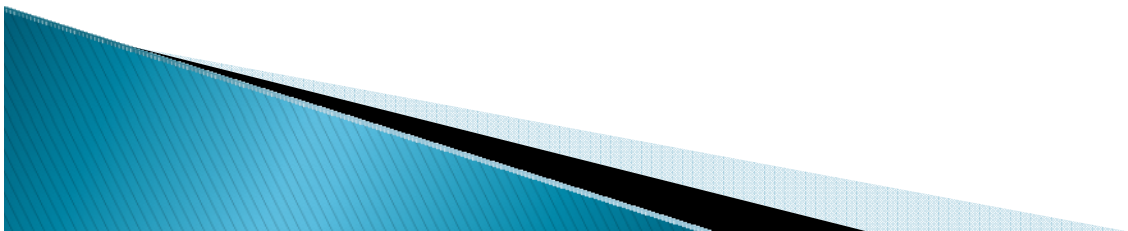
Activities of DOC

- Public awareness campaign
  - NGO's
  - National Assembly
  - Law enforcement agencies

- Sponsoring passage of 'The computer Security and Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Bill' in the National Assembly.

Challenges

- Cybercrimes are transnational and perpetrators continue to utilize legislative loopholes, intelligence gaps and jurisdictional issues to their advantage.
- Passage of the Bill and Amendment of Nigerian Evidence Act.
- Acquisition of modern technological tools to Prevent, Monitor and Investigate Cybercrime which is dynamic.
- Near absence of single Internet Gateway.
- Training.

End

Thank you for listening