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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | | Geneva, 25 February 2022 | |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 382** TSB Events /VM | | **To:**  - Administrations of Member States of the Union;  - ITU-T Sector Members;  - ITU-T Associates;  - ITU Academia  **Copy to:**  - The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Groups;  - The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;  - The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau;  - The Directors of the ITU Regional Offices | |
| **Contact:** | **Vijay Mauree** | |
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| **Subject:** | | **DFS Security Clinic - Addressing security risks to digital finance ecosystem (Fully Virtual, 30 -31 March 2022)** | | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 I would like to inform you that the International Telecommunication Union is organizing a Digital Financial Services Security Clinicjointly with the East African Communications Organization (EACO) from 30 – 31 March 2022 titled “**Addressing security risks to digital finance ecosystem**”.

2 The main objectives of the DFS Security Clinic are to share the findings and recommendations from the [FIGI Security Infrastructure and Trust working group](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/figisymposium/Pages/FIGISITWG.aspx) for regulators and DFS providers with regards to addressing security challenges for digital finance. The event will provide insights into security best practices for SIM swaps, mobile payment applications operating on USSD, STK and Android, methodology for testing security of mobile payment applications and addressing infrastructure vulnerabilities such as SS7.  A draft programme of the Security Clinic is at Annex 1.

3 Under the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative program (FIGI), the ITU set up a DFS Security Lab in November 2020 to work in collaboration with DFS regulators on adopting a common methodology to manage security risks and conduct security audit for DFS applications. The objectives of the ITU DFS security lab are as follows:

1. Support regulators to implement DFS security recommendations from FIGI (<https://figi.itu.int/working-group-reports/>).
2. Conduct security audits on DFS applications (i.e., USSD, STK and Android DFS applications).
3. Provide guidance on managing the DFS ecosystem security risks and mitigation measures.
4. Organize security clinics targeting DFS regulators and providers to stay up to date with new vulnerabilities and mitigation measures.
5. Conduct assessments on cyber preparedness among the DFS ecosystem stakeholders on responding to cybersecurity incidents targeting digital finance.
6. Provide a neutral platform to share knowledge on security incidents and vulnerabilities in digital finance.

4 The intended audience for the DFS Security Clinic are IT security professionals and policymakers from the telecom/ICT regulators, DFS providers, Central Banks and Mobile Network Operators.

5 All relevant information pertaining to the event (speakers, registration link, remote connection details) will be made available on the event webpage here: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/webinars/dfs/sc/20220330/Pages/default.aspx>.

Please note that registration is mandatory.

Yours faithfully,

Chaesub Lee  
Director of the Telecommunication  
Standardization Bureau

**Annex 1: Draft programme of DFS Security Clinic: *Addressing security risks to digital finance ecosystem***

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| **Day 1: 30 March 2022 10:00 – 13:00 (EAT)** | |
| 10:00 - 10:20 | **Opening and Welcome Remarks**   * **Bilel Jamoussi,** Chief of Study Groups Department, TSB, ITU * **Ally Yahaya Simba,** Executive Secretary, EACO |
| 10:20 - 11.50 | **DFS security vulnerabilities: Infrastructure vulnerabilities and mitigation measures (Mobile Infrastructure vulnerabilities)**  Telecom infrastructure vulnerabilities such as SS7 can be exploited by an intruder to intercept calls and SMSs, bypass billing, steal money from mobile money accounts, or affect mobile network operations.  This session will present the main findings of the Security, Infrastructure and Trust Working Group on securing the infrastructure against SS7 vulnerabilities and threats.  **Speakers**   * “Signalling Security” - **Faaez Burney** & **Karel Van Der Lecq**, Adaptive Mobile * "SS7 Security: What regulators need to do?" - **Assaf Klinger**, Klinger Consulting   Related Report:   * [SS7 Vulnerabilities and Mitigation Measures for DFS Transactions](https://figi.itu.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Technical-report-on-the-SS7-vulnerabilities-and-their-impact-on-DFS-transactions_f-1-1.pdf) |
| 11:50-12:00 | **Coffee Break** |
| 12:00 -13:00 | **DFS security vulnerabilities: USSD, STK and Android platform vulnerabilities**  This session will introduce the ITU DFS security lab and highlight the vulnerabilities to USSD and STK and Android based applications. Threats like Man in the middle attacks that could impact digital financial services and the SIM jacker vulnerability in SIM Cards would be discussed. The session will also provide and an overview of the security tests that can be undertaken in the DFS Security Lab at ITU.  **Speakers**   * "Introduction to ITU DFS security lab​" - **Vijay Mauree**, Programme Coordinator, TSB, ITU​ * "Android, USSD and STK tests" – **Arnold Kibuuka**, Project Officer, TSB, ITU   Related Reports:   * [Security testing for USSD and STK based DFS applications](https://figi.itu.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Security-testing-for-USSD-and-STK-based-Digital-Financial-Services-applications-1.pdf) * [Security audit of various DFS applications](https://figi.itu.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Security-audit-of-various-DFS-applications.pdf) |
| **Day 2: 31 March 2022 10:00 – 13:00 (EAT)** | |
| 10:00 – 11:15 | **DFS Security Assurance Framework**  This session will discuss the DFS security assurance framework that can be implemented by DFS providers to better manage the risks and mitigate their impact.   * **Vijay Mauree**, Programme Coordinator, TSB, ITU   Related Report:   * [DFS Security Assurance  Framework​](https://figi.itu.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Technical-report-on-Digital-Financial-Services-Security-Assurance-Framework_f-1-1.pdf) |
| 11:15-11:25 | **Coffee break** |
| 11:25 – 12:00 | **DFS security audit guideline**  The session also covered how a Regulator or DFS provider can assess compliance with the minimum-security controls using the DFS audit guideline.   * **Arnold Kibuuka**, Project Officer, TSB, ITU   Related Report:   * [DFS security audit guideline](https://figi.itu.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Digital-Financial-Services-security-audit-guideline.pdf) |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | **Implementing the DFS security recommendations and security audits for DFS.**  An interactive session focused at initiating the process to implement the DFS security recommendations and identify the DFS Mobile Money applications that could be tested at the ITU DFS security lab |