



CYBERWELLNESS PROFILE BAHRAIN



BACKGROUND

Total Population: 1 359 000

(data source: [United Nations Statistics Division](#), December 2012)

Internet users, percentage of population: 90.00%

(data source: [ITU Statistics](#), 2013)

1. CYBERSECURITY

1.1 LEGAL MEASURES

1.1.1 CRIMINAL LEGISLATION

Specific legislation on cybercrime has been enacted through the following instruments:

- [Law No. 60 of 2014 concerning Information Technology Crimes](#)
- [Law No. 16 of 2014 concerning Protection of State Information and Documents](#)

1.1.2 REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE

Specific legislation and regulation related to cybersecurity has been enacted through the following instrument:

- [Regulation 9 of 2009 concerning Lawful Access](#)

1.2 TECHNICAL MEASURES

1.2.1 CIRT

Bahrain has an officially recognized national CERT (CERT.bh) mandated by Bahrain's the Supreme Council for Information and Communication Technology via Resolution No. 37-2/2013. However CERT.bh is currently under formation.

1.2.2 STANDARDS

Bahrain does not have an officially recognized national (and sector specific) cybersecurity framework for implementing internationally recognized cybersecurity standards.

1.2.3 CERTIFICATION

Bahrain does not have an officially approved national (and sector specific) cybersecurity framework for the certification and accreditation of national agencies and public sector professionals.

1.3 ORGANIZATION MEASURES

1.3.1 POLICY

Bahrain is currently in the process of drafting the national cybersecurity policy.

1.3.2 ROADMAP FOR GOVERNANCE

The "National Trust Programme", which is currently under development, will provide a framework for the Government sector to improve cybersecurity governance and operations.

1.3.3 RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

The General Directorate of Information Security from the Central Informatics Organization is the officially recognized agency responsible for implementing a national cybersecurity strategy, policy and roadmap.

1.3.4 NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Bahrain does not currently have any officially recognized national or sector-specific benchmarking exercises or referential used to measure cybersecurity development.

1.4 CAPACITY BUILDING

1.4.1 STANDARDISATION DEVELOPMENT

Bahrain does not have any officially recognized national or sector-specific research and development (R&D) programs/projects for cybersecurity standards, best practices and guidelines to be applied in either the private or the public sector.

1.4.2 MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

Bahrain has officially recognized through [SafeSurf Programme](#) an educational and professional training program for raising awareness with the general public, promoting cybersecurity courses in higher education and promoting certification of professionals in either the public or the private sectors. The SafeSurf Bahrain offers tutorials to help parents and carers to enjoy all the best aspects of the online world and to facilitate learning of the dangers their children could face online – so they can use these new technologies safely and responsibly.

1.4.3 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Bahrain's information security team at the Central Informatics Organization, which is responsible for overall government security, is certified under more than 50 internationally recognized certification programs in cybersecurity.

1.4.4 AGENCY CERTIFICATION

Bahrain has numerous public sector agencies that are certified in accordance with ISO 27001 certification. Furthermore, the national PKI implementation is currently undergoing ETSI certification for qualified digital signatures, encryption, and authentication.

1.5 COOPERATION

1.5.1 INTRA-STATE COOPERATION

Bahrain does not have any certified government and public sector agencies certified under internationally recognized standards in cybersecurity.

1.5.2 INTRA-AGENCY COOPERATION

Bahrain CERT (CERT.bh) which is currently under formation will be the official certified government and public sector agency certified under internationally recognized standards in cybersecurity.

1.5.3 PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

Bahrain does not have any certified government and public sector agencies certified under internationally recognized standards in cybersecurity.

1.5.4 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Bahrain is a member of the ITU-IMPACT initiative and has access to relevant cybersecurity services. Bahrain is also a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council CERT committee ([GCC-CERT](#)).

2. CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

2.1 NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Bahrain has not enacted any specific legislation on child online protection.

2.2 UN CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL

Bahrain has acceded, with no declarations or reservations to articles 16, 17(e) and 34(c), to the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

Bahrain has acceded, with no declarations or reservations to articles 2 and 3, to the [Optional Protocol to The Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography](#).

2.3 INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

[The National Centre for Child Protection \(*\)](#), under the Ministry of Social Development, is the governmental organ responsible assessing and following up children's rights together with other governmental organs. It has no specific policy on online protection.

[The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority\(*\)](#) provides information for child online protection on its space for [Safe Surf](#). It has launched a [Report](#) on the state of internet safety in the Kingdom. It also organizes lectures in schools to help parents and teachers understand the online safety issues which affect children.

2.4 REPORTING MECHANISM

Bahrain Telecommunications Regulatory Authority provides a space for [complaints and enquiries](#) on its website.

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