



CYBERWELLNESS PROFILE

OMAN



BACKGROUND

Total Population: 2 904 000

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

Internet users, percentage of population: 66.45%

(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:

-[Anti Cybercrime Act](#)

-[E-Transaction Law](#)

-[Telecom Act](#)

1.1.2 REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE

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

-General Security Policy

-Internet and Email Policy

-Web and e-services Policy

-[Oman e-Governance Framework \(OeGAF\) - security compliance requirements](#)

1.2 TECHNICAL MEASURES

1.2.1 CIRT & RCC

Oman has an officially recognized [national CIRT](#) (OCERT). The national CIRT also hosts the first ITU Regional Cybersecurity Centre (RCC) established in 2013.

1.2.2 STANDARDS

Oman [Information Technology Authority](#) has an officially recognized national (and sector specific) cybersecurity framework for implementing internationally recognized cybersecurity standards. The framework is based upon ISO 27001 standard.

1.2.3 CERTIFICATION

Through the cyber security professional development service Oman National CERT is providing professional cyber security training in different security domains by providing information security competency and capability courses and certifications. The execution of the program is accomplished through strategic collaborations with reputable organisations in Oman and international accreditation institutions like (ISC), SANS and EC-council.

1.3 ORGANIZATION MEASURES

1.3.1 POLICY

Oman has an officially recognized High Level Cyber Security Strategy and Master Plan.

1.3.2 ROADMAP FOR GOVERNANCE

Oman has a national governance roadmap for cybersecurity under the High Level Cyber Security Strategy and Master Plan.

1.3.3 RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Oman [National CIRT](#) (OCERT) is the officially recognized agency responsible for implementing a national cybersecurity strategy, policy and roadmap.

1.3.4 NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

As part of its continuous effort in measuring the cyber security development in Oman OCERT is conducting a national cybersecurity survey at different levels. It also carry out cyber security audit and compliance against issued polices and framework. Oman also has an agreement with Ernest and Young to conduct a benchmark exercise under the Global Information Security Survey (GISS). The GISS provides organisation with an opportunity to compare themselves with others on important information security issues and gain insights for making key decisions through questions relates to security budget, investments, security governance, security effectiveness, maturity of security programs, security environment, and emerging technologies and trends.

1.4 CAPACITY BUILDING

1.4.1 STANDARDISATION DEVELOPMENT

OCERT through its research and analysis team lead the development of national projects such as:

- National early warning Project
- Intelligence gathering Project
- [National Cyber Clean Program](#)

In addition, the [Research Council](#) is Oman’s exclusive research funding body and leader of research development in the country. TRC serves as a focal point and hub dedicated to promoting and supporting research, scientific enquiry, and innovation in the Sultanate of Oman and Research and development in cyber security is one of the main areas focused by TRC.

1.4.2 MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

The National CIRT (OCERT) has launched several cyber security training and awareness initiatives as below:

- [National Awareness Campaign](#)
- [“Way Campaign” OCERT Unified Government Information Security Campaign](#)
- [Child Online Protection Campaign](#)
- [OCERT Ambassador Program](#)

OCERT is working closely with Ministry of Education to introduce Information Security Curriculum in schools. In addition OCERT is an advisory member at Ministry of Manpower IT Committee reviewing IT and Security curriculums for the higher technical collages. OCERT is also an advisory board member of private college.

1.4.3 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Oman has about 350 public sector professionals certified under internationally recognized certification programs in cybersecurity.

1.4.4 AGENCY CERTIFICATION

Oman has 7 government and public sector agencies certified under internationally recognized standards in cybersecurity.

1.5 COOPERATION

1.5.1 INTRA-STATE COOPERATION

To facilitate sharing of cybersecurity assets across borders or with other nation states, Oman has officially recognized partnerships with the following organizations:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| - ITU | - APWG | -Malware Alliance |
| - FIRST | - HoneyNet Project | -GCC CERT/OIC CERT |
| -Estonia | -Singapore | |
| -Malaysia (in progress) | | |
| -Korea (in progress) | | |
| -China (in progress) | | |

1.5.2 INTRA-AGENCY COOPERATION

Oman does not have any officially recognized national or sector-specific programs for sharing cybersecurity assets within the public sector.

1.5.3 PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

Oman has officially recognized national or sector-specific programs for sharing cybersecurity assets within the public and private sector. For example, it has Cyber Security Information Exchange with private security center and the Cyber Security Agreement with private security services providers' (Microsoft Security Cooperation Program).

1.5.4 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Oman is a member of the ITU-IMPACT initiative and has access to relevant cybersecurity services.

OCERT [is a member of FIRST.](#)

Oman also participated in the following international cybersecurity activities:

- FIRST Conference and Annual Meetings Japan, Malta, Austria, US, Bangkok
- National CSIRT Meetings of CMU , Japan, Malta, Austria, US, Bangkok
- GCC CERT Continuous meetings, Saudi Arabia ,QATAR, Muscat
- Working Group on Legal Framework for COP in the Arab region- June 2013 - Cairo
- Cyber Defence Summit 2012 & 2013, Muscat
- ITU-IMPACT Applied Learning for Emergency Response Teams (ALERT) from 15-17 July 2012 - Amman, Jordan
- 1st Cyber Security Forum for energy and utilities – Abu Dhabi 2012
- COP legal Framework for the Arab countries – Algeria 2012
- Arab Internet Governance Forum – October 2012 - Kuwait
- OIC –CERT Conference and Annual Meeting 2012 – Muscat
- Gulf Cyber Crime Conference 2011, Muscat
- ITU Regional Workshop on “Policy Advocacy & Capacity Building in Child Online Protection for the Arab Region” Muscat-Oman, 30-31 October 2011
- MIS – CISO Executive Summit 2010, Muscat
- OIC-CERT Conference, 2009, Kuala Lumpur, 2010 UAE, 2011 Muscat
- GOVCERT conference, 2008, Rotterdam, Holland
- CERT- Computer Emergency Response Centers workshop, 2008,Cairo, Egypt
- ITU Cyber security working group meeting, 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

2. CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

2.1 NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Specific legislation on child online protection has been enacted through the following instruments:

-[Penal Code \(Article 220\)](#)

-[Cybercrime Law \(Article 14 and 15\)](#)

2.2 UN CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL

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

Oman 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

Oman Computer Incident Response Team is the officially recognized agency that offers institutional support on child online protection.

2.4 REPORTING MECHANISM

Oman Computer Incident Response Team is the officially recognized agency that offers an avenue for the reporting of incidents related to child online protection. Incidents can also be reported online on the [Kids Online Security Website](#).

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