



Tonga National Computer
Emergency Response
Team

Hacked Email and Webcam Scams

Tonga's National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT Tonga) under the Ministry of MEIDECC has received various reports from the public regarding emails they have received blackmailing the recipients to pay various amounts of money from \$300 to as much as \$4,000 bitcoins.

The source of the email claims they have hacked the recipient's email or device and have access to the history of adult websites they have visited including screenshot and pictures of the victim taken from their webcam. They threaten that they will send this to all your contacts if you do not pay the demanded amount.

How it works

1. The scammers send an email making it look like it's from their own email address and account claiming that they have hacked that email account.
2. Email sometimes include a known password from one of the victim's online accounts. The known password information has been obtained from previous data breaches from online service providers.
3. The email also contains the amount to be paid in bitcoins and the the bitcoin wallet to pay the demanded payment to.

What to do

1. CERT Tonga are not aware of any case where actual screenshots or webcam footage has been captured so the general public is advised **not to pay any amount** and report the incident to CERT Tonga on the below contact details or Tonga Police on 922
2. Users are also advised that if they do receive a known password in the email to immediately change all accounts that they use that password for

Reference

<https://www.cert.govt.nz/businesses-and-individuals/recent-threats/webcam-and-password-blackmail-scam/>

<https://www.cert.govt.nz/businesses-and-individuals/recent-threats/webcam-blackmail-scam/>

Please for more information you can contact us:

Tonga National CERT
Ministry of MEIDECC
OG Sanft Building Level 2
Nuku'alofa
Tel: 2378 (CERT)
email: report@cert.to
web: www.cert.to

Disclaimer Notice:

The information in this notice is intended solely for public knowledge and awareness, and not intending to harm, fright or disturb any person(s), legal entity or the receiver of this information. Under no circumstances shall the Ministry of MEIDECC be liable for any indirect, incidental, consequential, special or exemplary damages arising out of or in connection with your access or use of or inability to access or use the information and any third party content and services.