

# **Cyber Security Governance: Updates from the front line, October 2022**

## **Latest Cyber Threat Evolution**



# Introduction

Neil Hare-Brown  
Cyber Jedi

- Founder: STORM Guidance: niche independent cyber advisory
- Information Security & Digital Investigator for 35 years: Financial Services, Government/Law Enforcement, Military, Industry, Retail, Marine
- Alumni Royal Holloway: MSc. Information Security
- Specialisms:
  - Cyber Risk: Assessments & Audits
  - Cyber Incident Response: Digital & Fraud Investigations and
  - Cyber Crisis Mgmt.
  - Cyber Insurance: Worked with cyber insurers & brokers exclusively for 8 years
- Current Assignments: 100's of Cyber & Fraud Investigations, Rapid Risk Reviews, IR Plans, **CyberDecider** & **ReSecure**

# STORM Guidance

Full service offering for  
reinsurers, insurers, brokers  
and clients

## Assess

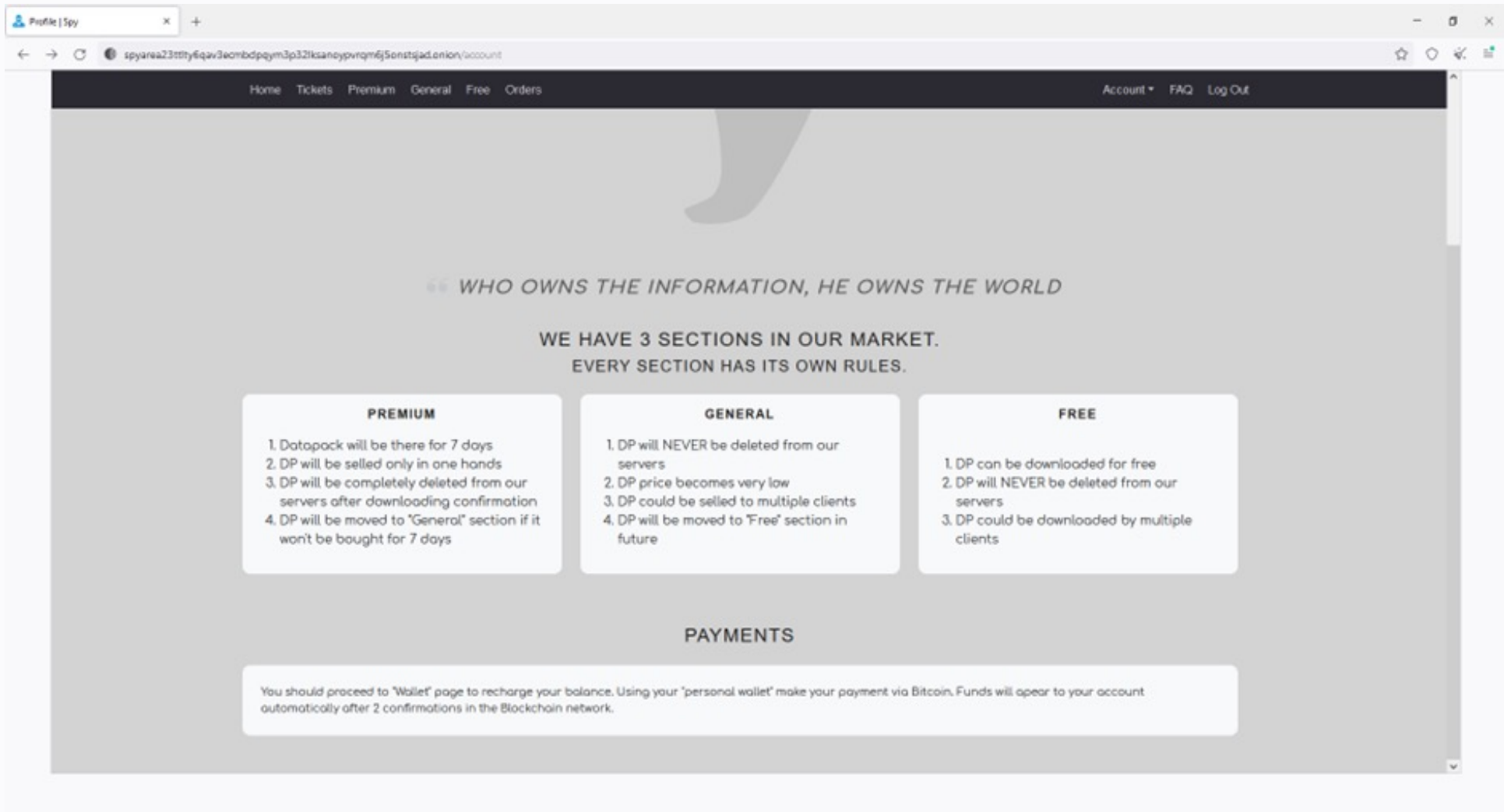
Lightweight cyber risk assessments to enable clients to learn and improve their cyber risk management maturity levels. **Cyber3: Rapid Risk Review**

## Plan

Helping insured clients to create, learn (through training) and exercise / test their plans in dealing with different types of cyber incidents in the context of their business.

## Respond

Delivering a fully coordinated and Integrated Cyber Incident Response Team (I-CIRT).  
**ReSecure:** full service offering for insured clients.



# Ransomware

## Evolving Threat

- Gone from pure network disruption to pure data extortion
- Criminal 'Threat Actors ' have evolved attacks to maximise probability of payouts
  - Businesses are gradually improving resilience to Ransomware attacks and so are less likely to need to pay to recover their systems
  - Most businesses remain largely ignorant of the sensitivity of the data they hold
  - TAs are more likely to obtain extortion demand payouts because of Reputational/Liability risk from data breaches
  - Dark web marketplaces are becoming optimised for data breach extortion
  - Any data theft is now more likely to follow a 'ransomware-style' extortion process



# Safeguard

## Ransomware/Data Breach

- People – Process – Technology

**Focus has been on Technology and on People. It now needs to be firmly on Process as this is where Threat Actors are focused.**

- Know your data

Undertake a proactive audit to discover sensitive business data

Improve data management and security e.g. encryption

- Build CIR plans (even 'plan-on-a-page) and perform exercises on realistic incident scenarios
- Consider Threat Actor Engagement as an important aspect of your plans

# Critical National Infrastructure Attack Fallout

Evolving Threat

- War appears to attenuate criminal activity
- However, it is a period where development of attack capability is generally high
  - Nation-state cyber capabilities currently focus on controlled disruption of CNI
  - Post-conflict, those capabilities will inevitably make their way into the hands of cyber criminals
- Both CNI and non-CNI organisations need to be prepared for the use of increased disruptive attacks and extortion
- There may be further uncertainty as to how War Exclusions will be triggered
- Disinformation and fraud scams are continuing to develop rapidly – again Process



# Safeguard

## Increased Cyber Attacks

- Critical for organisations (CI or not) to understand their Cyber Risk Management Maturity (CRMM).

Undertake a comprehensive cyber risk assessment

- Adopt a strategic plan for cyber risk management

**Do not just expect the IT folks to keep the wolves from the door**

- Improve your spend on IT and cyber security

Focus on improving process in the procurement and support of technology and digital services

Ensure that ALL technologies are at the latest available versions



## Challenge #1

Have a Strategy

**Tactics without strategy  
is the noise before defeat**

**Sun Tzu – The Art of War**

# Supporting Information

[www.stormguidance.com/insights](http://www.stormguidance.com/insights)

The screenshot displays the STORMGuidance website with a dark blue header containing navigation links: Response, Investigation, Consulting, STORMGuidance, Services, Insights, and Contact. Below the header is a grid of six article cards, each featuring a representative image, author information, a title, and a short introductory paragraph.

Article Title	Author	Date
How to determine the financial exposure and limits of cover needed...	Rosie Hayes	6 days ago
The Catastrophic Effect of Cyber Incidents and 'Black Swan' Theory	Rosie Hayes	Jan 6
The SUNBURST Attack – Biggest Hack for Years	Rosie Hayes	Dec 17, 2020
Calls to Close Cyber Coverage Gaps as Ransomware Payment...	Rosie Hayes	Dec 3, 2020
A Brokers' Role in Cyber Risk Management	Rosie Hayes	Nov 26, 2020
The Anatomy of an Email Compromise	Rosie Hayes	Nov 11, 2020



**Thank you**

[contact@stormguidance.com](mailto:contact@stormguidance.com)