

# **Guidelines for CSIRTs outside of the Asia-Pacific Region Engaging in the APCERT POC Arrangements**

## **Background**

1. The APCERT POC Arrangements have been established primarily to provide a framework for sharing information about serious and time critical computer threats and vulnerabilities by APCERT members within the APCERT region.
2. APCERT wishes to make its POC arrangements available to leading CSIRTs outside the Asia-Pacific region. Leading CSIRTs are those which are recognised as having broad responsibility to their economy as a whole and which participate in Regional POC Arrangements compatible with the APCERT POC Arrangements. These would not include vendor or organisational CSIRTs or incident response teams. Sector based CSIRTs will be considered on a case by case basis.
3. These guidelines outline the circumstances in which the POC arrangements should be used by CSIRTs that are not part of the Asia-Pacific region and which are accepted as "Participating External CSIRTs to the APCERT POC Arrangements".

## **Purpose**

4. The APCERT POC Arrangements provide POCs within APCERT for CSIRTs outside of the Asia-Pacific region that wish to communicate with APCERT POCs about:
  - a) serious and time critical computer security incidents and/or computer security issues for the purposes of helping to resolve or investigate an incident; and/or
  - b) serious and time-critical computer security vulnerabilities, knowledge of which is not yet in the public domain; and/or
  - c) serious and time-critical computer security threats in order to provide early warning to APCERT POCs' constituents. An example of this is a newly discovered fast spreading Internet worm.
5. The POCs should not be used to contact APCERTs POCs for matters which are neither serious nor time critical. Normal contact arrangements, as advertised on APCERT CSIRT members' web sites should be used for this purpose.

## **Acceptance as a Participating External CSIRT to the APCERT POC Arrangements**

6. The APCERT SC will consider and make decisions on requests for CSIRTs' POC schemes outside the Asia Pacific region to participate in the APCERT POC Arrangements as a Participating External CSIRT.
7. External CSIRTs engaging with APCERT in its POC Arrangements agree to abide by the APCERT POC Arrangements policies and guidelines where applicable to the Participating External CSIRT.

## **Access to APCERT POC Details**

8. APCERT POC Details and Arrangements will be posted to the APCERT secure web site. Access to the secure web site will be given to CSIRTs accepted as Participating External CSIRT to the APCERT POC Arrangements.
9. Where access to APCERT POC information is provided to Participating External CSIRTs, these CSIRTs must not make these contact details public or pass this information to other parties.

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### **Identifying POC Communications**

10. APCERT POC Arrangements exist to help prioritise POC communications within and between APCERT members and others about serious and time critical computer security threats and vulnerabilities. Generally communication that occurs under the APCERT POC arrangements will receive higher priority and importance than other forms of CSIRT communications. Therefore, it is necessary to flag such communication as being part of the APCERT POC Arrangements.

11. If the communication is via email, this is flagged through the use of the POC email alias established for this purpose. If the communication is via telephone, then the caller should identify him or herself and advise this request falls under the APCERT POC Arrangements.

### **Digital signatures**

12. Where arrangements are made to share APCERT POC details with CSIRTs outside the Asia-Pacific region, those CSIRTs will provide a copy of their public key and will always sign email communications with their digital signatures.

### **Identification of CSIRTs outside the Asia-Pacific Region on the Secure APCERT web site**

13. CSIRTs outside the Asia-Pacific region that are permitted, and have agreed, to participate in the APCERT POC Arrangements will be identified as "Participating External Parties to the APCERT POC Arrangements" on the APCERT secure web site.

14. Contact details for CSIRTs outside the Asia-Pacific region will be posted on the APCERT secure web site so that APCERT POCs may initiate contact under the APCERT POC Arrangements with external CSIRTs, as required. It is the responsibility of all participating CSIRTs to ensure that their POC details are up to date at all times.

### **Guidelines for handling information**

15. Participating External CSIRTs to the APCERT POC Arrangements will abide by the information handling caveats outlined in the APCERT POC Policy.