



## PRESS STATEMENT

15<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

### **PRESS STATEMENT BY NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY - UGANDA (NITA-U) ON THE WANNACRY RANSOMWARE**

National Information Technology Authority - Uganda (NITA-U), through the Uganda National Computer Emergency Response Team and Coordination Center, has confirmed reports of an imminent global threat targeting unpatched and vulnerable Microsoft Windows based systems. The threat is in form of a malicious software attack known as Ransomware.

Ransomware is a sophisticated and malicious software that infects a computer system and denies users' access to files on the infected computer until a ransom is paid.

The current threat is from a version of ransomware variant known as WannaCry, WCry or Wanna Decryptor which has been reported to have infected tens of thousands of computer systems globally and continues to spread. Following infection of a computer on the network, the ransomware spreads across all vulnerable computer systems on the same network with no user action.

Individuals and organizations are discouraged from paying the ransom since it does not guarantee that access to the compromised files will be restored.

NITA-U therefore advises the public to take notice of the above and urgently undertake the following preventative/ precautionary measures:

- 1) Maintaining up to date backups of all critical data to facilitate recovery in the event of a compromise. A Copy of backed up data MUST be stored offline.
- 2) Ensure your Computer's operating system is updated. Urgently apply the latest Microsoft Security Update MS17-010 – this eliminates the affected vulnerability used in this threat.
- 3) Install and maintain updated firewall and Anti-virus signatures.
- 4) Disable macro scripts in files transmitted via email.

- 5) Avoid clicking links or opening attachments or emails from unknown / untrusted sources (people you don't know or companies you don't do business with).

If you need more information on the above or have any questions, you may contact the National CERT/CC via email address [info@cert.ug](mailto:info@cert.ug) or via telephone +256392301148 / +256782969174 to report such incidents or to seek for related advice and support. For further information, please visit the National CERT website at <http://www.cert.ug> or [www.nita.go.ug](http://www.nita.go.ug).

### **About the National CERT/CC**

The National CERT/CC provides a national coordinated approach for handling Information Security incidents. This organization is devoted to ensuring that appropriate technology and systems management practices are used to resist attacks on networked systems and to limit damage and ensure continuity of critical services in spite of successful attacks, accidents or failures.

NITA-U wishes to take this opportunity to thank its stakeholders for their continued support and further reiterates its commitment to enhancing the safety of Uganda's cyberspace and a National culture of cybersecurity.

Yours faithfully,



Stella Alibateese

**AG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**