Beat: Technology

New global action to deal with online child abuse

UK Prime Minister announces

London, UK, 11.12.2014, 14:55 Time

USPA NEWS - New GCHQ and National Crime Agency specialist unit to fight online child sexual exploitation - New joint GCHQ/National Crime Agency specialist unit to tackle online child sexual exploitation announced by the Prime Minister today at the #WeProtectChildren Global Summit in London.

“¢New unit to tackle paedophiles on the “˜dark net´

“¢Google, Facebook, Yahoo, Microsoft and Twitter unveil new technical solutions to block and remove illegal child abuse material online

“¢New UK database enabling swifter identification and investigation by law enforcement of child abuse images

“¢New global action to build law enforcement networks and improve child protection in over 30 countries

An unprecedented package of measures to eradicate online child abuse will be announced today by the Prime Minister at the UK government´s #WeProtect Children Online summit in London. Delegations from more than 50 countries, 26 leading technology companies and 10 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are taking part in the 2 day summit at Lancaster House, the first of its kind in the world.

Speaking at the summit, the PM will announce a new joint National Crime Agency (NCA)/Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) specialist unit to tackle the worst cases of child sexual exploitation online. Persistent paedophiles are increasingly communicating on the so-called “˜dark web´, using ever more sophisticated techniques to disguise their identities and encrypt the horrific images of children that they are sharing with peers.

The new unit will bring together GCHQ´s technical expertise with NCA´s investigatory prowess to develop new high tech capabilities to address the challenges of analysing vast volumes of child abuse imagery hidden on the “˜dark web´. They will focus on the most prolific offenders.

All internet technologies used by these offenders leave “˜digital footprints´ of some form. UK daily users to secret or encrypted networks have increased by two thirds according to the NCA who expected to see 20,000 daily UK users in 2013 (CEOP Threat Assessment 2013).

In one recent investigation, GCHQ and the NCA became aware of an individual in the UK using his technical know-how to maintain chat services and websites in the Far East and Eastern Europe to share child abuse material across the world. He also offered advice to other paedophiles about how to hide their behaviour online. The individual was using software which enables online anonymity, as well as an online nickname to disguise his real identity. Analysis by GCHQ and NCA enabled them to identify the individual for arrest. He was charged with making and distributing indecent images of children and later sentenced to 3 years in prison.

Technical solutions
The Prime Minister will also unveil ground-breaking new technical solutions developed by the industry which will support law enforcement action to close the net around paedophiles, protect more children and make it significantly harder to use the internet to share child abuse images:

“¢The digital fingerprints (hash values) of thousands of known child sex abuse images identified by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) will be used by the major tech companies (Facebook, Microsoft, Google, Twitter and Yahoo) to prevent these images being shared on their services, so they can no longer be viewed.

“¢Hashing technology which allows known child abuse videos to be identified and blocked from being shared has been developed by Google who will share it with the wider industry. Yahoo will be the first industry partner to pilot it.
“¢Microsoft, Google and Mozilla have committed to investigate the feasibility of implementing browser level blocking restrictions designed to prevent people getting access to URLs of known child abuse material via Internet Explorer, Chrome and Firefox.

The package of measures follows a strongly-worded call to action by the PM last year where he said that more must be done to reduce the proliferation of child abuse images on the internet. Since then Google and Microsoft have introduced a number of changes to their search functions not only the UK but across the world. This includes changes to their algorithms to prevent images and videos of child abuse material from appearing in their search results.

Microsoft is increasing the size of its search term “˜blacklist´, and Google´s algorithm has now rolled out around the world ““ in all 40 languages Google search supports ““ and it automatically checks against millions of search terms. Google has seen a fivefold reduction in the number of searches for child abuse images since these changes were made.

Prime Minister David Cameron said:

“Every time someone chooses to view an online image or a video of a child being abused, they are choosing to participate in a horrific crime. Every single view represents that victim being abused again. They may as well be in the room with them.

“I want to build a better future for our children. The package I am announcing today is a watershed moment in >reducing the volume of child abuse images online. It marks significant progress in delivering a truly world-leading response to a global problem.

“The so-called “˜dark-net´ is increasingly used by paedophiles to view sickening images. I want them to hear loud and clear, we are shining a light on the web´s darkest corners; if you are thinking of offending there will be nowhere for you to hide.“

Global commitments
The PM will also announce a series of global commitments from more than 30 countries to increase law enforcement ability to track more paedophiles and help more victims. This will be supported by a new £50 million Child Protection Fund ““ the first of its kind in the world ““ to support global capacity building to prevent children experiencing violence and exploitation, and to help those who have been victimized. UNICEF will support the development of the new fund, in close partnership with the UK, other governments and partners from civil society and the private sector.

The countries have agreed:

“¢To set up their own national databases of child sex abuse material or links to the INTERPOL International CSE Database (ICSE). This database facilitates the sharing and removal of known images across the open internet, and by countries agreeing to put in place the technical infrastructure we will create a global network to better detect criminals and identify victims.

“¢To develop, support and promote a victim centred child protection strategy.
“¢All countries have committed to have a dedicated law enforcement function, like the UK NCA´s Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP).
“¢To build better online reporting mechanisms like the Internet Watch Foundation in key countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle-East. Uganda, for example will now have a new online child sexual abuse reporting portal, run by the IWF, through which Internet users in Uganda can report any websites depicting child sexual abuse for the first time. They will also be setting up a child helpline “˜116´ for reporting offences against children.

“¢Since 2010 the number of offences relating to indecent images of children and reaching a first hearing in the magistrates courts has consistently been more than 20,000 offences a year (around 15,000 in 2006).
“¢It is estimated that there may be over 22,500 such offences reaching a first hearing in the magistrates courts in 2014 based on current data “ “ the highest level ever.

Source: From:
Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street
Home Office
Department for International Development
Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Article online:
https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-3084/new-global-action-to-deal-with-online-child-abuse.html

Editorial office and responsibility:
V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Daren Alexander-Frankish - UK.GOV

Exemption from liability:
The publisher shall assume no liability for the accuracy or completeness of the published report and is merely providing space for the submission of and access to third-party content. Liability for the content of a report lies solely with the author of such report. Daren Alexander-Frankish - UK.GOV

Editorial program service of General News Agency:
United Press Association, Inc.
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA
(702) 943.0321 Local
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile
info@unitedpressassociation.org
info@gna24.com
www.gna24.com