VIETNAM CYBER SECURITY CENTER

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# Kaspersky's contributions to Vietnam's National Cyber Security Center's National Malware Detection and Removal Campaign

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BRING ON
THE FUTURE

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**Kaspersky has proved to be a reliable partner of the Vietnamese government in the sphere of cybersecurity protection and resilience.**

"Strategic alliance with cybersecurity experts from overseas is an essential movement for The National Cyber Security Center of Vietnam (NCSC) to enhance our national cyber defense and enlarge our threat intelligence capability going forward with the national digital transformation program. Kaspersky is our valued partner, working alongside us for quite a long time"

**Mr. Tran Quang Hung**,
Director of the NCSC of Vietnam

In its most recent efforts, Kaspersky actively contributed to the success of Vietnam's National Malware Detection and Removal Campaign, which achieved a 50 percent reduction in the malware infection rate and the number of Vietnamese IP addresses affected by 10 major botnets.

Through sharing intelligence on threats, Kaspersky has supported Vietnam in identifying and assessing botnets in the country. Kaspersky has also offered Vietnamese users complimentary use of strong malware-removal tools, which are capable of removing viruses, Trojans, spyware, adware modules and all kinds of rootkits. Such support has been greatly appreciated by Vietnam's National Cyber Security Center (NCSC) – the organizer of the abovementioned malware removal campaign.

## Introduction of the National Malware Detection and Removal Campaign

Vietnam acknowledges the crucial role of cybersecurity in national digital transformation, as well as the development of digital-based products and services. Ensuring national cybersecurity is one of the key tasks laid out by Vietnam government's Resolution 17/NQ-CP, dated March 7, 2019, on the Development of E-Government in 2019-2020 towards Vision to 2025.

In recent years, malware infection in Vietnam has decreased but remained high compared to other countries. Statistics show that Vietnam has about 16 million IP addresses, of which around three million are regularly blacklisted by many international organizations, while millions of other Vietnamese IP addresses are regularly found in major botnets.

In September 2020, the National Cyber Security Center under the Authority of Information Security (AIS) of the Ministry of Information and Communications of Vietnam, in coordination with 18 leading domestic and foreign cybersecurity organizations, launched the National Malware Detection and Removal Campaign. The program is aimed at reducing the malware infection rate and the number of Vietnamese IP addresses in 10 major botnets by 50 percent.

The campaign targeted removing malware from end-devices in private enterprises, network systems, and household devices whose IP addresses were mostly detected in popular botnets by providing free use of anti-malware tools. In fact, the campaign has been synchronously carried out nationwide, at both central and local levels, through specialized-IT agencies in ministries and ministerial agencies, local information and communications departments, financial institutions, commercial banks, private enterprises, etc.

> **"With our elite team of experts providing our more than two-decades of expertise and our threat-intelligence based solutions, we are committed to supporting Vietnam in building the country's cybersecurity capability and resilience."**

**Ms. Genie Sugene Gan**,
Head of Public Affairs for Asia Pacific at Kaspersky

## Kaspersky's Involvement and Contributions

The success of this campaign was achieved partly thanks to the contributions of Kaspersky's Anti-malware Research team from the initial stage of the campaign. As one of the few key private partners, Kaspersky was an active ally since the beginning.

By sharing relevant threat intelligence, Kaspersky provided support in identifying and assessing popular botnets with Vietnamese IP addresses, which was greatly appreciated by the NCSC/AIS. Threat intelligence sharing is one of the important activities that Kaspersky has been undertaking as a key partner of the Vietnamese government.

Ms. Genie Sugene Gan, Head of Public Affairs for Asia Pacific at Kaspersky said: **"As a strong advocate of trust and transparency in the cybersecurity industry, we are honored to be among the private partners of the Vietnamese government for this campaign.**

**With our elite team of experts providing our more than two-decades of expertise and our threat-intelligence based solutions, we are committed to supporting Vietnam in building the country's cybersecurity capability and resilience."**

Kaspersky also offered Vietnamese users complementary use of malware removal tools during the campaign, which are capable of removing viruses, Trojans, spyware, adware modules and all kinds of rootkits. 10,000 downloads of Kaspersky removal tools were recorded during the last two months of the campaign.

The contributions of Kaspersky are acknowledged by the NCSC:

Mr. Tran Quang Hung, Director of the NCSC of Vietnam: **"Strategic alliance with cybersecurity experts from overseas is an essential movement for The National Cyber Security Center of Vietnam (NCSC) to enhance our national cyber defense and enlarge our threat intelligence capability going forward with the national digital transformation program. Kaspersky is our valued partner, working alongside us for quite a long time.**

**Especially on this national malware detection and removal campaign in 2020, Kaspersky was truly our augmented arms handling many phases of the campaign operation – from preparation to deployment. We hope that we could improve this collaboration and establish more effective cybersecurity practices that bring benefits not only to Vietnam's national digital transformation through various campaigns, but also global information safety optimization."**

# Success of the Campaign

The campaign was carried out in three phases.

· Phase 1 included devising the campaign plan and relevant events.
· Phase 2 focused on assessing 10 major botnets and implementing the plan on a large scale. In this phase, anti-malware tools were offered for free download on the campaign's website: **https://khonggianmang.vn**.
· In the final phase, the AIS evaluated the campaign's outcomes and planned for future campaigns and activities. The campaign was scheduled to last a month, then was extended until the end of 2020, thanks to its initial, unexpected achievements.

After two months of implementation, the campaign received the participation of all localities, ministries and sectors. Hanoi led in the number of malware scannings with 24,000 scans, followed by Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang with 16,000 and 7000 scans, respectively. In total, the campaign reached more than eight million audiences to date. Out of the 1.2 million computers involved in malware scanning, more than 400,000 infected computers were detected and supported with malware removal tools. The number of botnet IP addresses has decreased by almost half from more than two million IP addresses as of September 2020.

According to the AIS, the National Malware Detection and Removal Campaign has succeeded in raising awareness of the general public about potential cyberthreats. The campaign also contributed substantially to making Vietnamese cyberspace safer, which in turn helps accelerate the country's digital transformation process, further attracting foreign investment.

In addition, latest results from the Kaspersky Security Network (KSN) 2020 report for Vietnam provide a solid evidence to show the positive changes brought about by the campaign. According to the anonymised data willingly shared by Kaspersky users in the country, 2020 saw a 14.2% decrease in web threats and a 27.8% decline in local threats last year, as compared to 2019. The malware hosting incidents detected in Vietnam has also decreased significantly, with only 847,447 incidents hosted in servers located in the country as compared to 2019's more than 2.6 million incidents. These statistics highlight Vietnam's successful efforts in creating a safe and trustworthy cyberspace last year, amidst the sharp rise of remote working and online usage triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# About Kaspersky

Kaspersky is a global cybersecurity company founded in 1997. Kaspersky's deep threat intelligence and security expertise is constantly transforming into innovative security solutions and services to protect businesses, critical infrastructure, governments and consumers around the globe. The company's comprehensive security portfolio includes leading endpoint protection and a number of specialized security solutions and services to fight sophisticated and evolving digital threats. Over 400 million users are protected by Kaspersky technologies and we help 270,000 corporate clients protect what matters to them most. Learn more at **www.kaspersky.com**.