

Foundations, incidents & responses

(Navigating murky waters)

FOUNDATIONS

*(aka: basis, pillars, underpinning,
bedrock, cornerstone, ...)*



22.07.2026 @ 05h30



FOUNDATIONS



- So you gave your kids (a) smartphone(s)
- Did you also give them guidance on how-to-use-it?
- Really?



FOUNDATIONS

(data input)

Teach yourself to type with 10 fingers !

(after all, you use both hands/10 fingers when rowing/playing piano)

On a tablet / laptop / desktop

- Yes: voice control (*apps, office 365*), mini-keyboard, swipe, ...
- But: Keyboard (and mouse) still reigns supreme

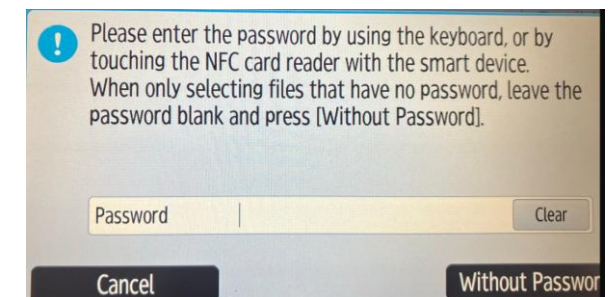
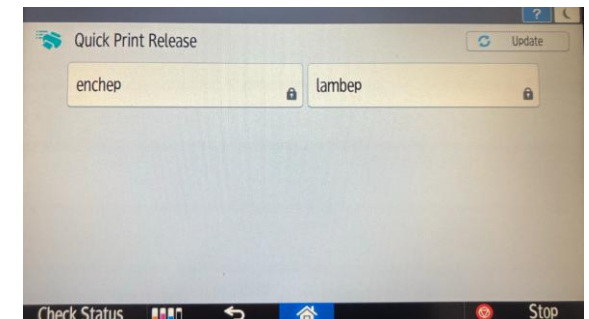
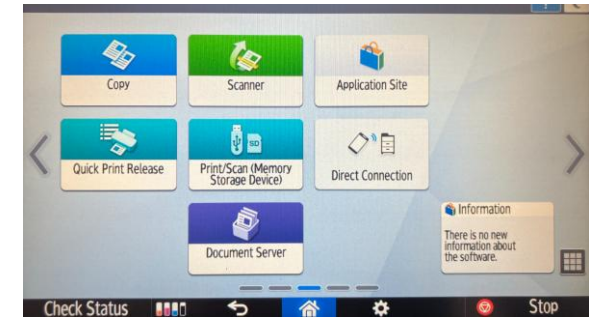
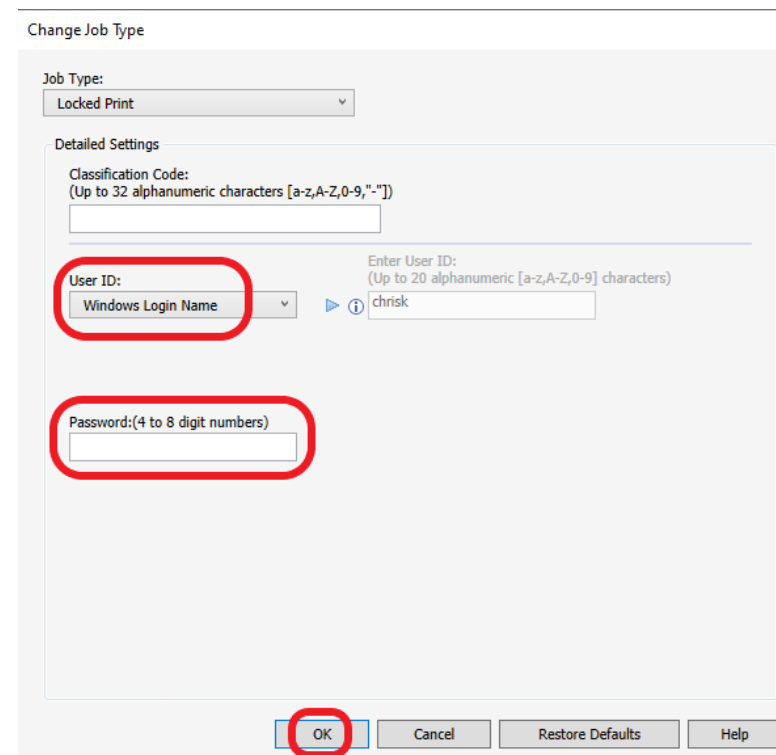
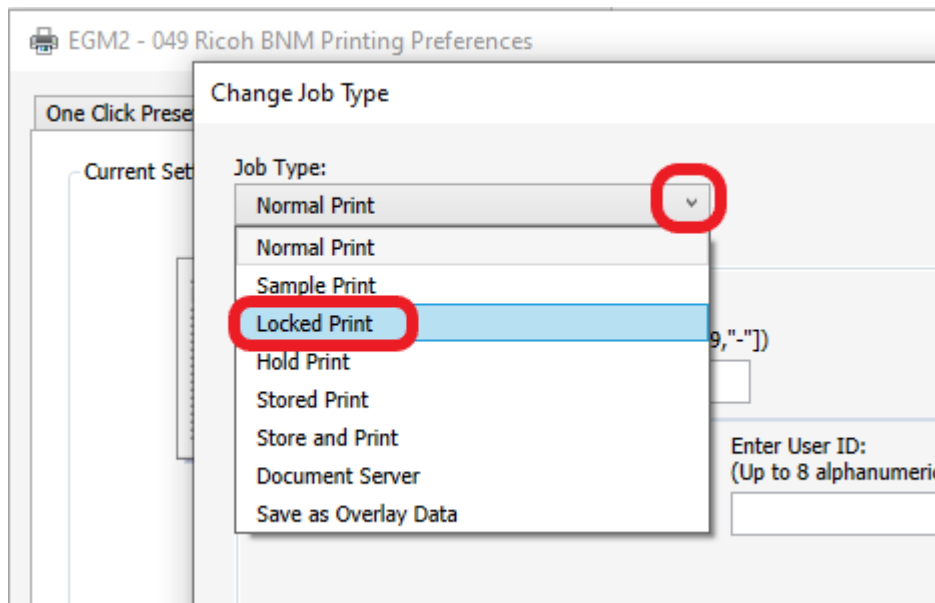
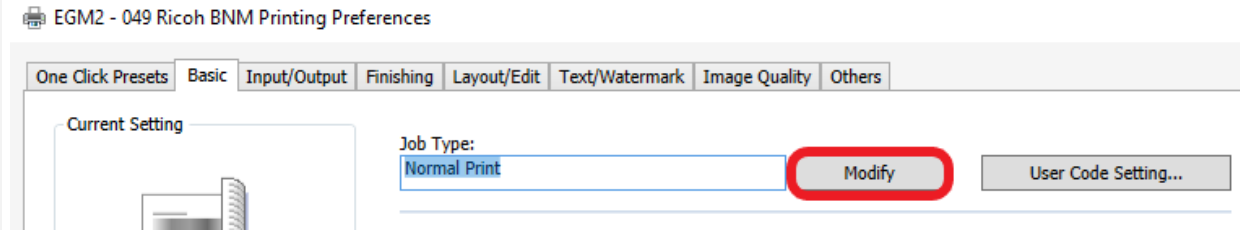
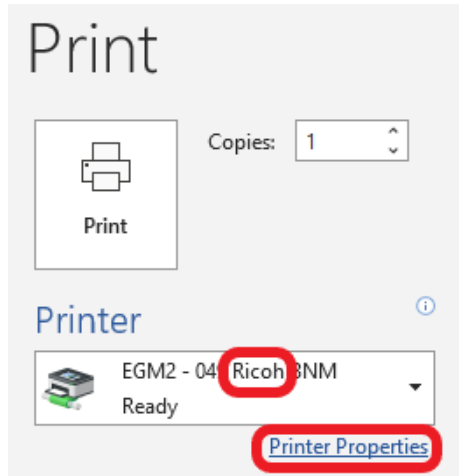
A matter of efficiency / image + avoidable cybersec issues

- *account lock-outs*
- *accidental file deletions*
- *simple passwords (keyboardwalks)*
- *lots of noise...*
- *slow & unproductive*

❑ <https://www.typingclub.com/>

FOUNDATIONS

(data output)



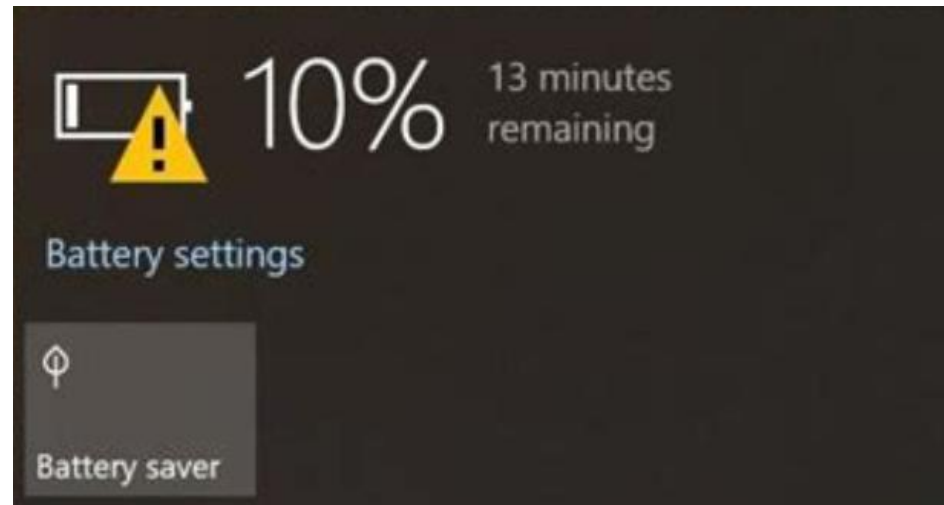
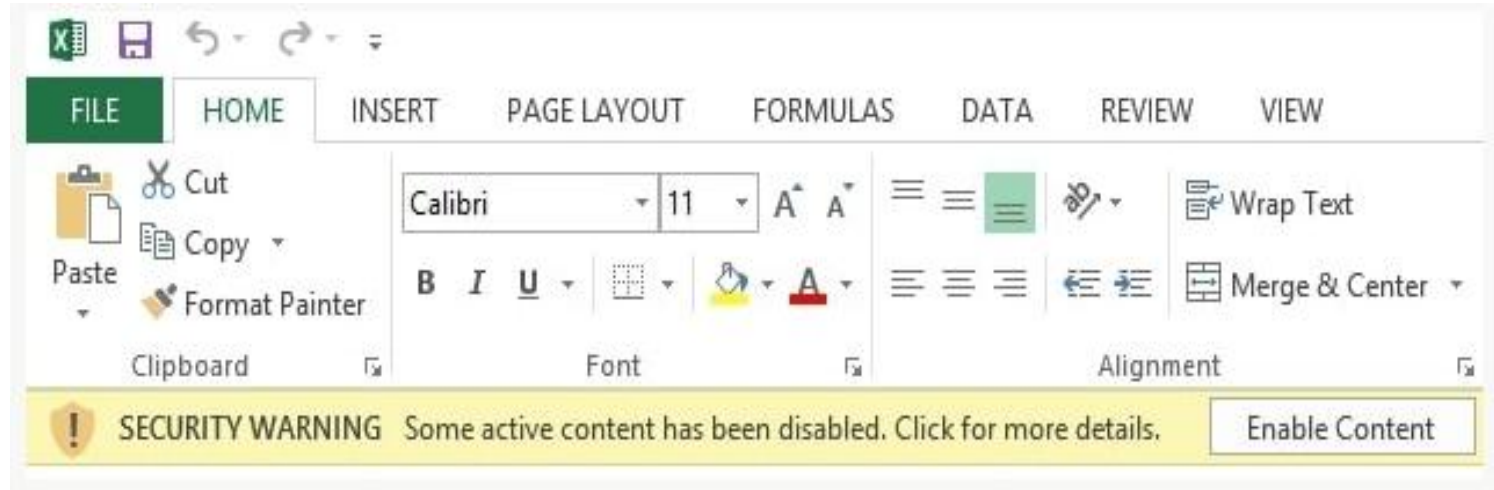
FOUNDATIONS

(privacy screen & cam guard)



FOUNDATIONS

(common sense)



What would YOU do?



Foundations : *e-mail & authentication*

➤ E-mail

- 50years & still popular (*to/cc/bcc; attach; urgency; label; revoke...*)
- Serious security issues (*wrong recipient, wrong attachments, ...*)
- Important attack vector (*advanced phishing-campaigns*)

➤ Authentication

- Keep it yours: login-pwd/keys/2FA/MFA, ...
(*do not let anybody else use it*)
- PWD management : everything you've learnt about passwords is
(very likely) wrong !

Intermezzo - quick quizz

What's the strongest password in this list?

1) @levskifan26

2) Xy32%1z?1Ebryt7?

3) Mum just fried me a great 1fish!

4) All similarly strong



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What matters most with passwords?

- 1) The longer my password, the stronger
- 2) A different password for each application
- 3) Store passwords in a secure location
- 4) All of the above answers are correct



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Foundations : *removable media, encryption*

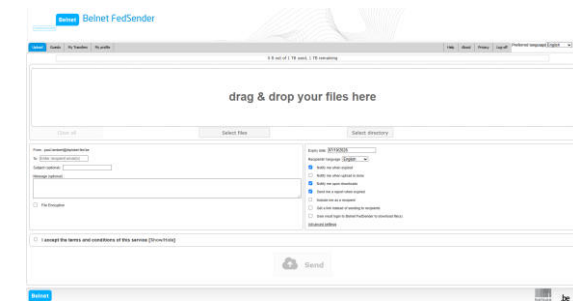
➤ AVOID removable media

- USB
- Connected devices (*smartphones, HD/SSD, ...*)



➤ BUT DO encrypt :

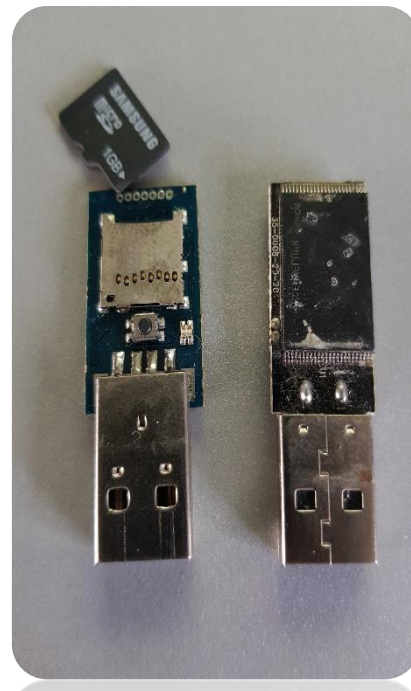
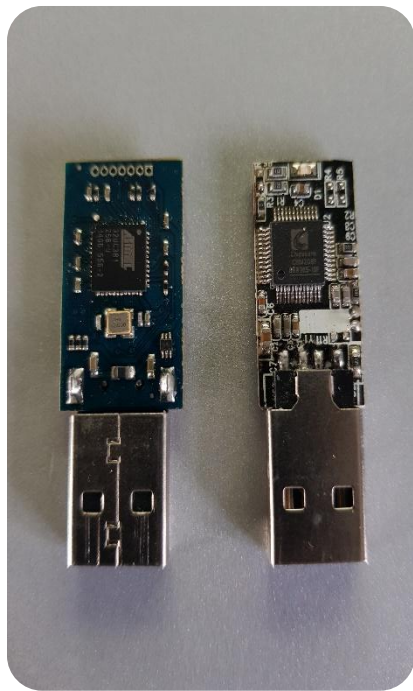
- (backup) HD/SSD/USB, smartphone, pwd
- Your files in the cloud (*someone else's computer*)
- When transferring files (*example: [Belnet Fedsender](#)*)
- When chatting (*example: [BEAM](#)*)
- DNS : 86.54.11.1 ([DNS4EU](#)) *rather than 1.1.1.1 or 8.8.8.8*



Intermezzo – quick quiz & crypto demo

USB: Can you spot the difference?

Rubber Ducky *versus* A Regular USB



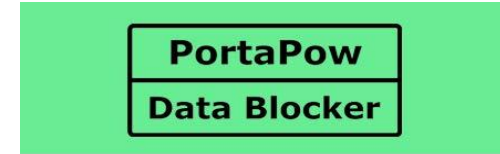
Not just USB keys ... also charging cables



Keystroke Injection (DuckyScript™)	✓	✓	✓
Mouse Injection	✓	✓	✓
Payload Slots	8	8	200*
Self-Destruct	✓	✓	✓
Geo-Fencing	✓	✓	✓
WiFi Triggers	✓	✓	✓
FullSpeed USB Hardware Keylogger		✓	✓
Covert Data Exfil			✓*
Air Gap Comms			✓*
Networked C2			✓*
Extended WiFi range		✓	✓
Stealth-Optimized Power Draw			✓

And a remedy: the datablocker

(also known as)



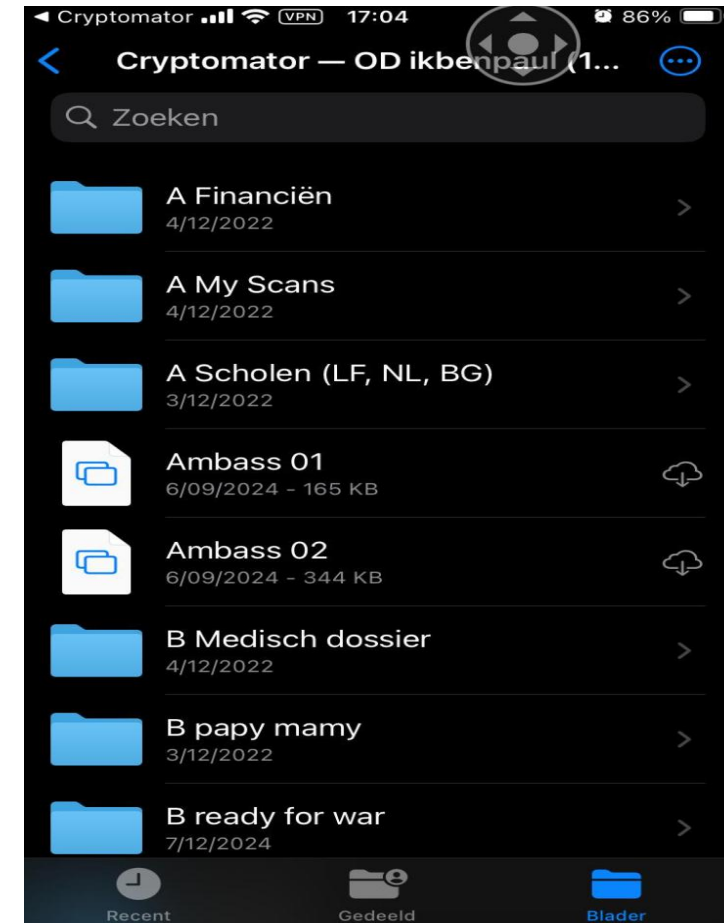
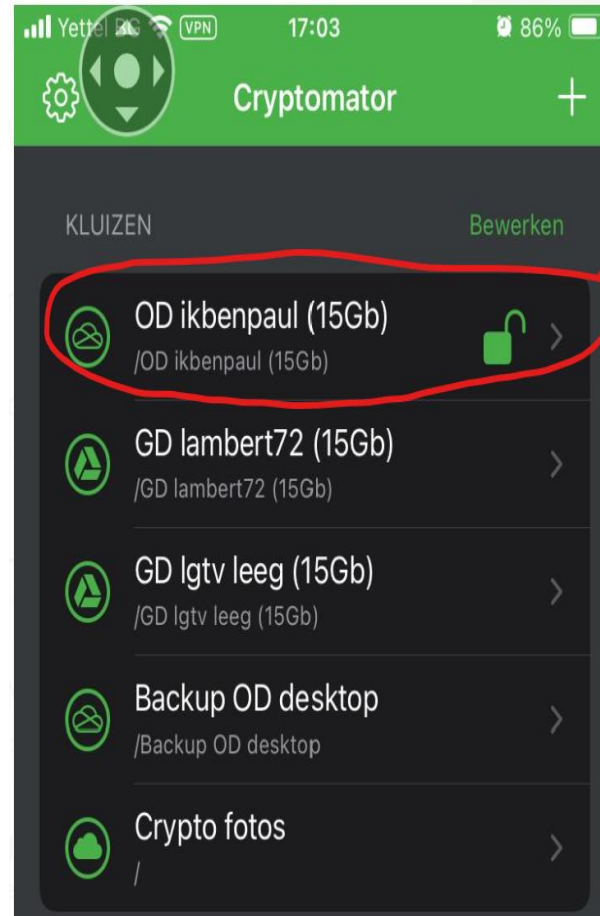
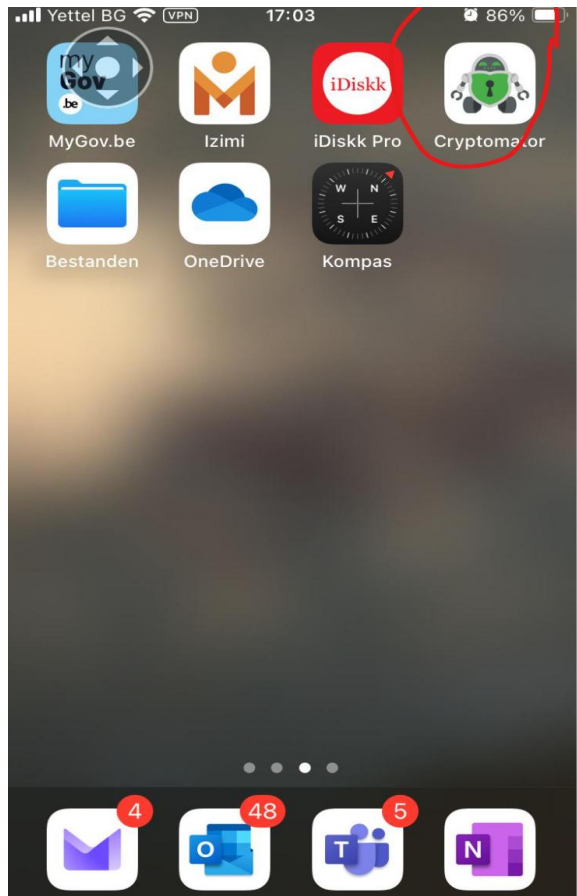
vs



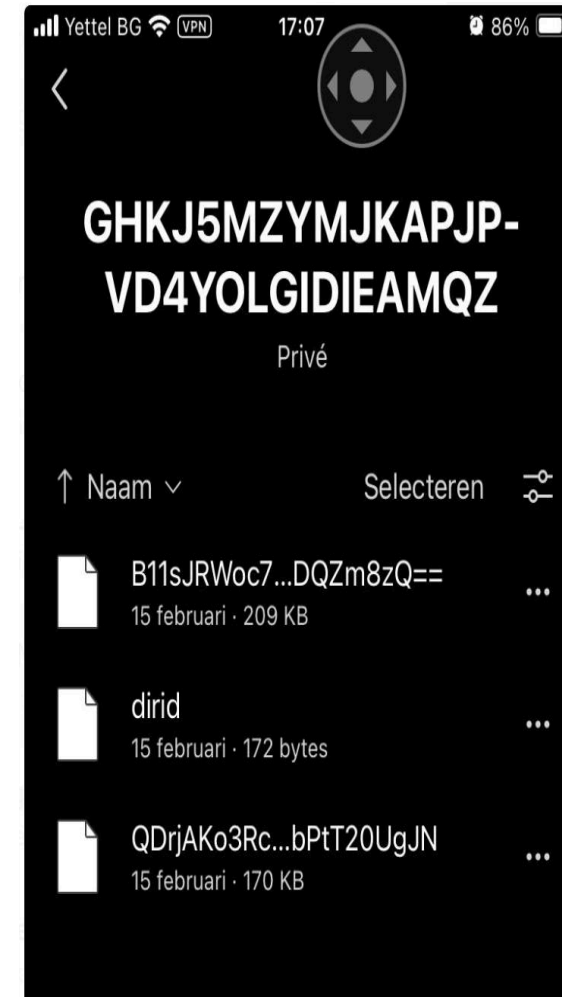
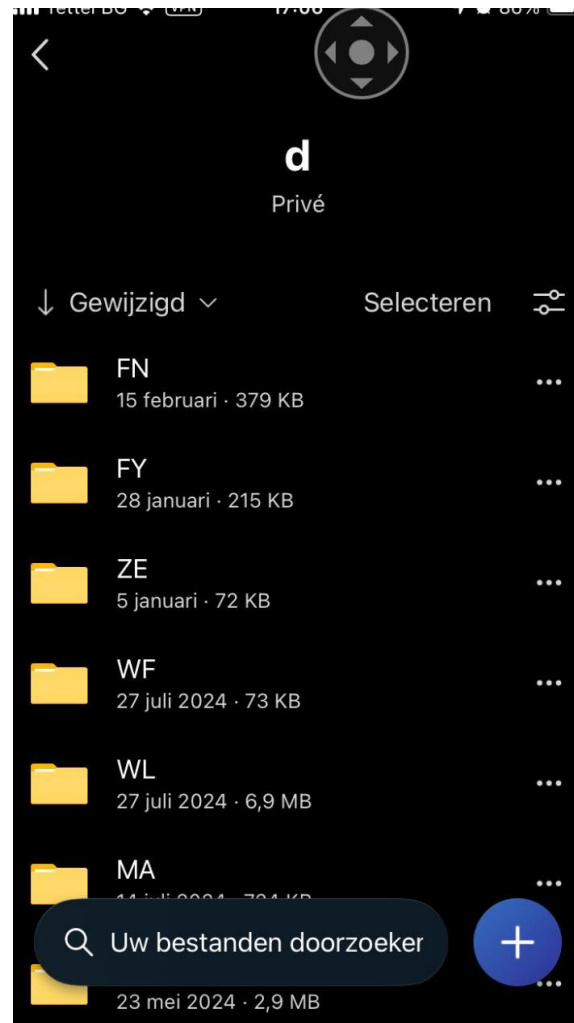
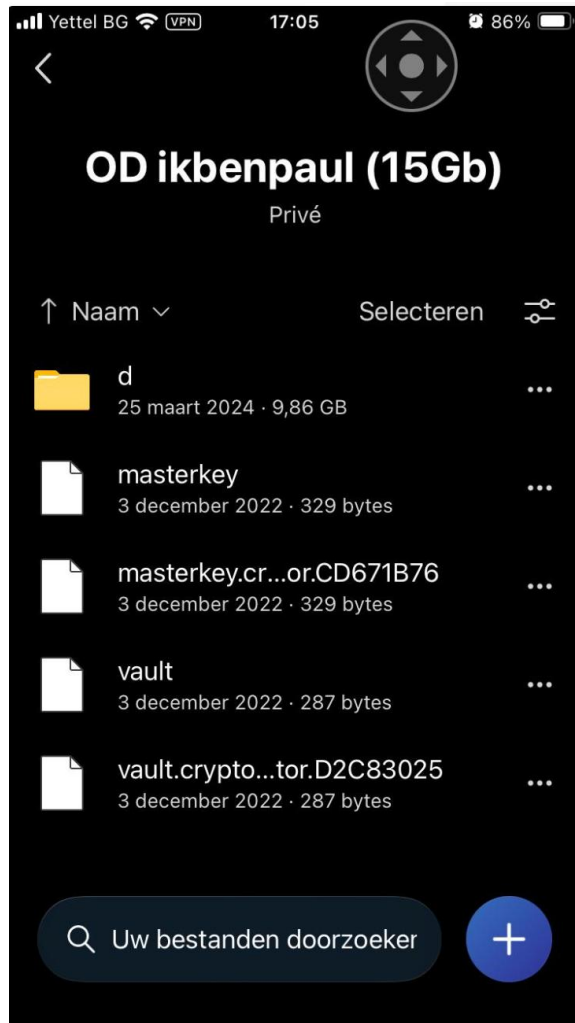
Data Wires Removed

Data Wires Present

Encryption: Crypto by you 😊



Encryption: Crypto by you 😊



Encryption: why bother?

with encryption

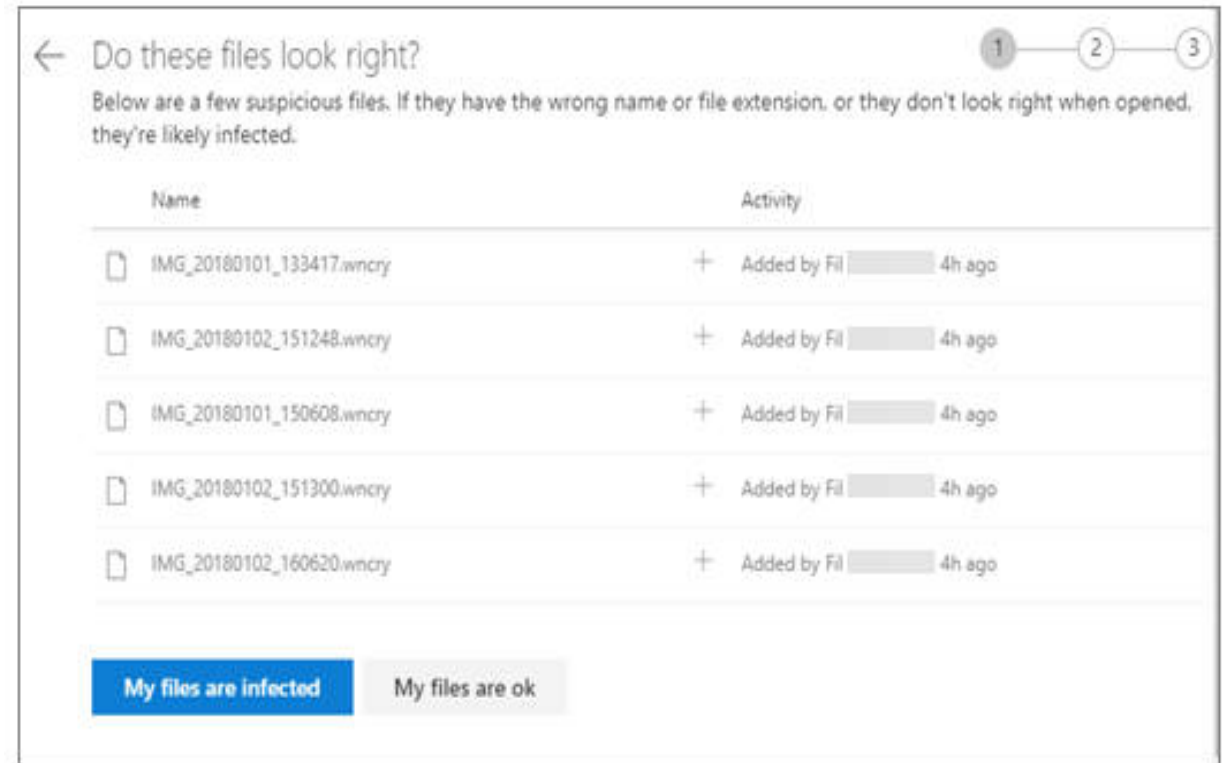
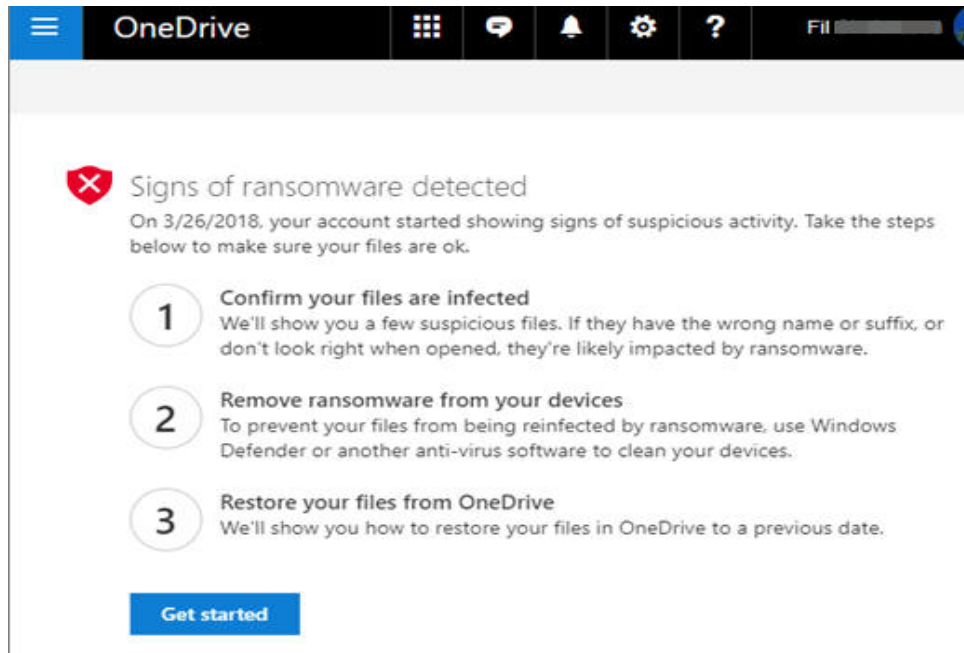


without encryption



Encryption: Crypto by you 😊

➡ Mind the warning!



This indeed looks like ... RANSOMWARE !

Encryption: Crypto NOT by you ☹️



INCIDENTS

(the real thing)



2

Targeted Incident 1

13.5.2021

- Spoofing
- Impersonification
- Malicious attachment
- Generic e-mail
- *Did you notice?*
- Timing

URGENT Note Verbale Embassy of Belgium will be closed

Personal Assistant of the Ambassador of Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Multilateral Affairs and Global Affairs <masarikm@sssebrmo.cz>

Gesendet: Do 13.05.2021 14:20

An:

Nachricht NV.html (2 MB)

Dear Colleagues,

Please be informed that the Embassy of Belgium will be closed indefinitely.
Attached, please find the NV.

Best regards,

Katrien Meersman

Personal Assistant of the
Ambassador
of Belgium

Embassy of Belgium

www.diplomatie.belgium.be
tel.: (+374 10) 542491, 542497
katerin.meersman@diplobel.fed.be



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation

24.2.2021

*Jean-Yves Le Drian
Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs
Republic of France*

- Compromised mailserver/box of the Ministry of Culture of a EU Country (*no spoofing*)
- To/cc: Belgian Embassy in Berlin
- Content: invitation on behalf of VIP's for High-Level Forum in Berlin on 10 - 11 March 2021.
- Urgency: register (*malicious link*) by 26/2 = Friday (reminder: e-mail of 24/2).
- Url-rewriting: tools matter



Targeted Incident 3

17.3.2021

Invitation from The Greek Ambassador - Monday, 22th March - The Honorable Dionyssios Kalamvrezos

Social Secretary to the Greek Ambassador, Rentoumi Anastasia <rentoumi.anastasia@mfa.gr>

TO: [redacted] - Brussels EU

You forwarded this message on 17/03/2021 10:49.



Reply Reply All Forward ...

Wed 17/03/2021 10:44

Dear Colleague,
The Greek Ambassador, following a Reception on **22 March** and would like to invite you to the Embassy of Hellenic Republic in Bruxelles that evening on the occasion of the visit of the **Deputy Minister for Economic Diplomacy and Openness of Greece, KOSTAS FRAGOIANNIS** to Bruxelles, 22 March.

Monday, 22th March at 3:30 pm
Embassy of Hellenic Republic in Bruxelles
10 Rue des Petits Carres,
1000 Bruxelles, Belgium
(00322) 5455500 - 01

Precautions are in hand to ensure that everyone remains safe and healthy. The evening will be socially distanced in the hall with the appropriate social distancing. We ask all guests to consider the covid-19 precautions below.

Your response is required please to ensure there will be no more than 100 guests. **Please fill attached reply form and send it to this email by Friday, 19th March to confirm whether you will attend**

You will receive detailed arrival instructions on confirmation of attendance.

The Ambassador would be delighted if you can join him, and hopes to see you soon! We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,
Rentoumi Anastasia
Social Secretary to the Greek Ambassador

Please Note

The Greek Embassy is following CDC guidance, which recommends wearing face coverings in all indoor spaces and where social distancing cannot be observed to reduce community-based transmission. Social distancing practices will be observed. To ensure your safety and comfort, we encourage you to use the hand washing facilities and hand sanitiser that will be available.

Recommended food and hygiene safety precautions will be practiced, including regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces. Our Residence staff will wear face coverings and gloves.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have felt unwell in the past two weeks, suspect you have recently come into contact with someone who has is unwell or has COVID-19 or have recently travelled to an area experiencing widespread community transmission, please stay home. We want to ensure everyone's safety, and are happy to invite you another time in the future when you are well.

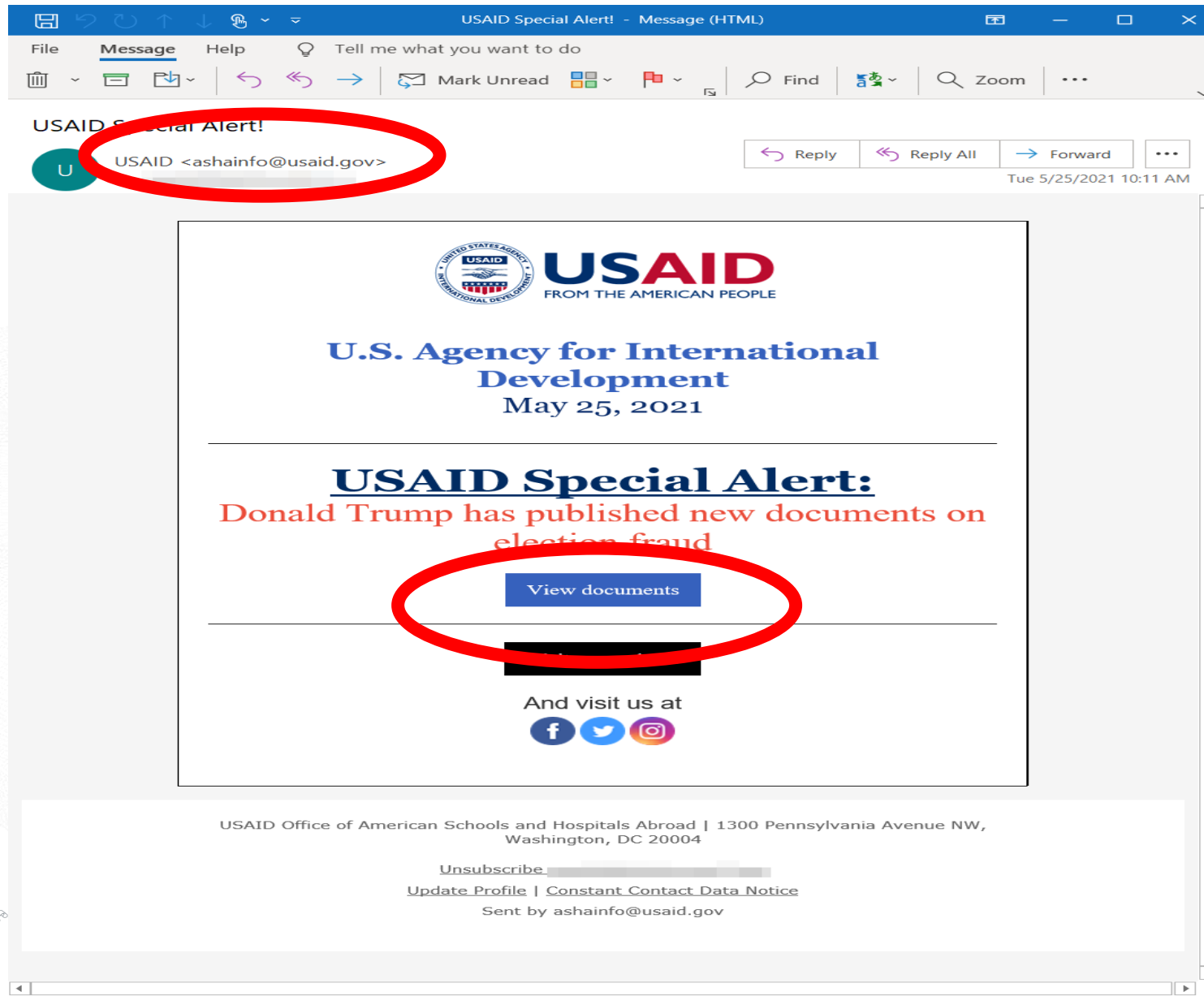
Rentoumi Anastasia

- Compromised mailaccount of a European MoFA (*no spoofing*)
- To: many EU MS
- Content: invitation for High-Level briefing.
- Urgency: register by 19/3 = Friday
- *Did you notice?*
- Timing matters

Targeted Incident 4

25.5.2021

- Compromised mailbox
- USaid: trusted partner of/by DGD (on mailinglist)
- Learn & adapt:
 - From junkmail
 - To quarantaine



Targeted Incident 5

CONNEXUS

13.7.2021

From: Personal Assistant of the Ambassador De Bauw Embassy of Belgium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <karsten@behrends.at>

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:48 PM

To: Stałe przedstawicielstwo RP przy NATO w Brukseli <bruksela.nato.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl>

Subject: Save the date - Minister's meeting with NATO/EU HoMs

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Defence Attachés,

Would it be possible for you to bring what follows to the attention of your Head of Mission.

Heads of Mission and Defence Attachés are kindly invited to attend an online meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence Simon Coveney on Monday 19 July 2021 from 9.30 to 10.30am. Minister Coveney shall give a 20 minute presentation on European security and defence, followed by a 40 minute Q&A session.

I kindly ask you to confirm attendance by rsvping to myself before Thursday 15 July to : Jirka.DePaepe@diplobel.fed.be.

Please do not hesitate to come back to me if you have any questions.

The link to the online meeting will be sent to all registered attendees by email a few days ahead of the event.

Wishing you a good day.

Best regards,



Jirka De Paepe
PA to Ambassador De Bauw

T +353 (0)1 660 0884 www.ireland.diplomatie.belgium.be
Embassy of Belgium, 1 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 K522, Ireland



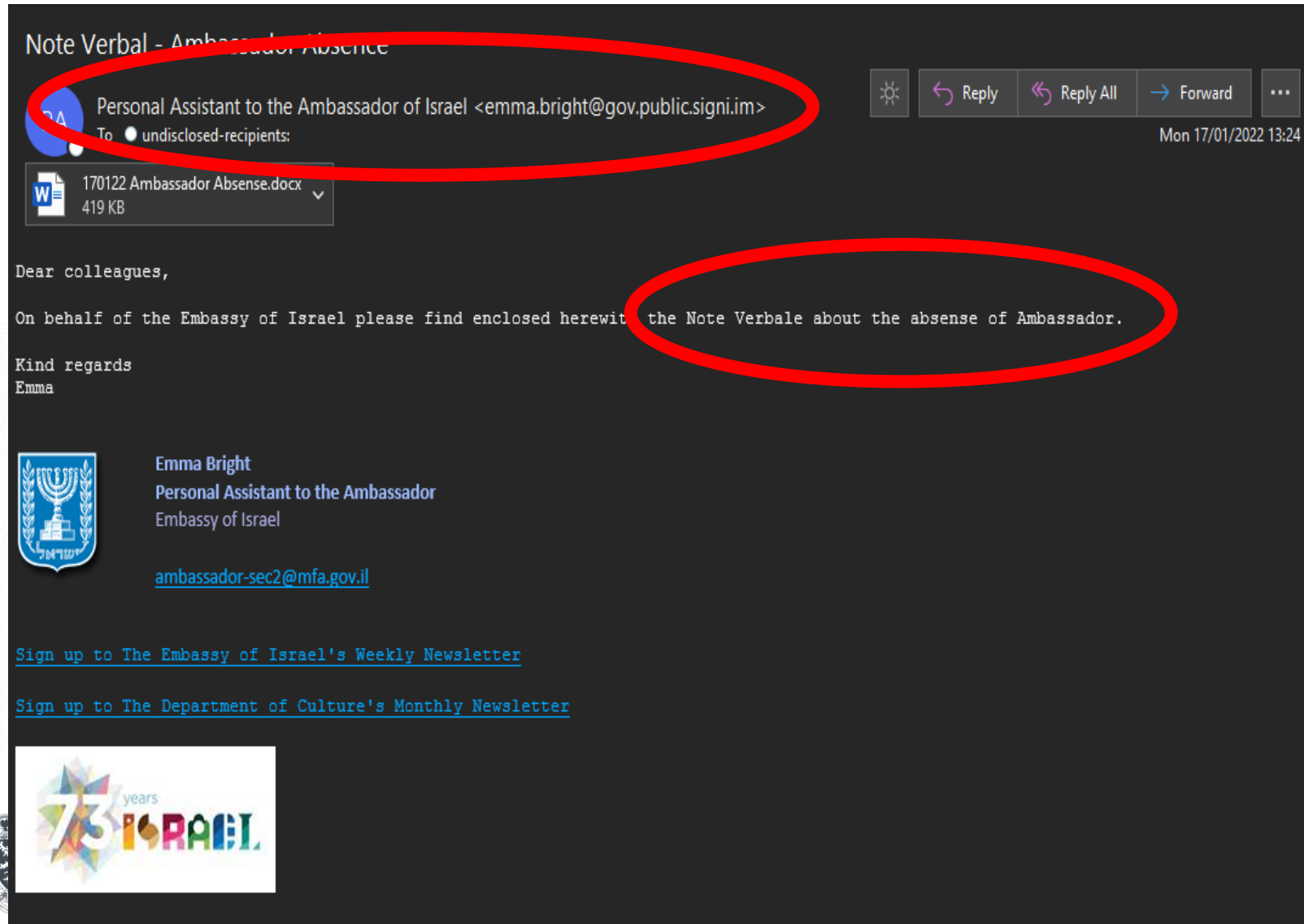
Jirka De Paepe
PA to Ambassador De Bauw

T +353 (0)1 560 0884 www.diplomatie.belgium.be
Embassy of Belgium

- Spoofing
- Impersonification
- NO malicious attachment / link
- On request
- Urgency
- *Did you notice?*

.be

Targeted incident 6



17.1.2022

- Spoofing
- To: BE, Canada, West European countries
- Malicious attachment
- Context UA/RU:
14.1.2022: UA webdefacing

Did you notice ?

13.5.2021

17.2.2022

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Best regards,

Katrien Meersman

Personal Assistant of the
Ambassador
of Belgium

Embassy of Belgium

www.diplomatie.belgium.be
tel.: (+374 10) 542491, 542497
katerin.meersman@diplobel.fed.be



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Foreign Affairs,
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Development Cooperation

Note Verbal - Ambassador Absence

Personal Assistant to the Ambassador of Israel <emma.bright@gov.public.signi.im>

To undisclosed-recipients:

170122 Ambassador Absence.docx
419 KB

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Embassy of Israel please find enclosed herewith the Note Verbale about the absence of Ambassador.

Kind regards

Emma



Emma Bright
Personal Assistant to the Ambassador
Embassy of Israel

ambassador-sec2@mfa.gov.il

Reply Reply All
Mon 17/01/2022 13:24

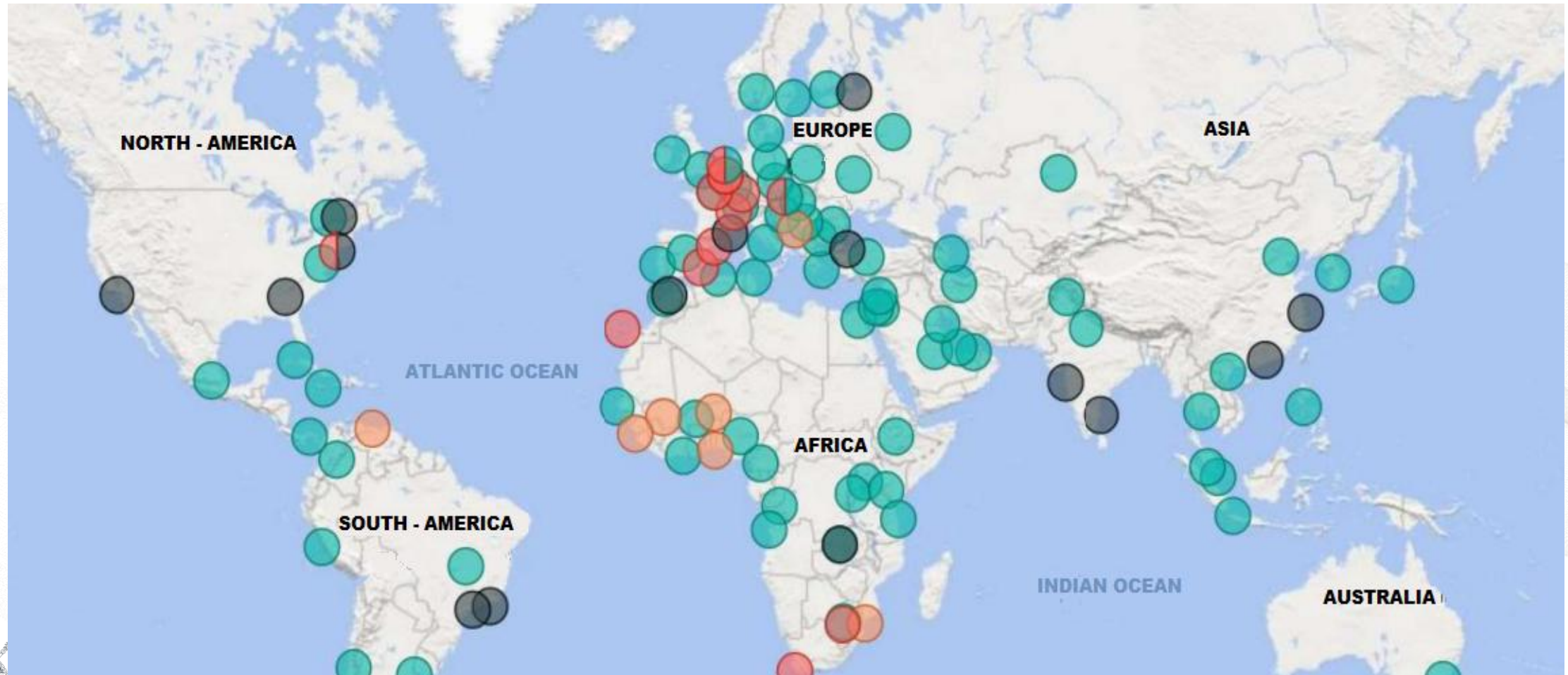
RESPONSES

*Tools, training & policy
(all onboard the ship)*



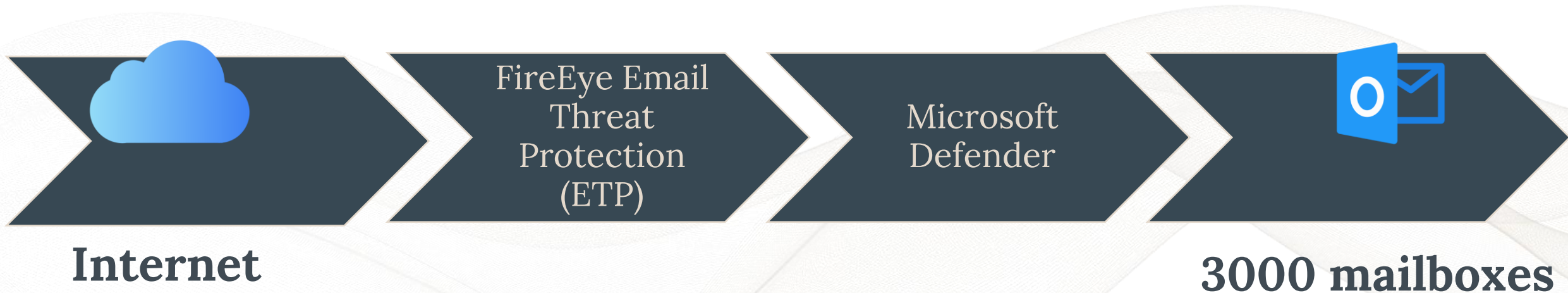
3

Tools: navigating 115 *points of presence*



Tools: securing the E-mail flows

- Various security filters including VPN/Webproxy
- E-mail as important attack vector



- 100.000 official mails yearly
- Over 3 million e-mails per month





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China: Declaration by the Minister for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Belgian Government urging Chinese authorities to take action against malicious cyber activities undertaken by Chinese actors

China: Declaration by the Minister for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Belgian Government urging Chinese authorities to take action against malicious cyber activities undertaken by Chinese actors

Last updated on

July 18, 2022

Belgium exposes malicious cyber activities that significantly affected our sovereignty, democracy, security and society at large by targeting the FPS Interior and the Belgian Defence.



Bring cybersec to the coffee/lunch/dinner table!

- Use variety of channels
- BE creative: see ccb.belgium.be/new-cyber-driving-licence-mandatory-all-belgian-internet-users

Attribution:

- Speak out!



**“Never be afraid to
ask questions,,
because if you never
ask, the answer is
always no.”**

Sheena Yap Chan

