

Dear OGCIO,

I am very encouraged after reading the consultation paper on 2014 Digital 21 Strategy. The paper gives the impression Hong Kong will leverage its ICT achievements, huge pool of young, enthusiastic and innovative talents, and provide the supporting frameworks for these talents to flourish and prosper.

While it is exciting to hear the future ICT vision for Hong Kong such as cloud computing, Big Data processing, Internet of Things and readily available wireless access. To be accessible and enjoyed by the general public, the success all these technological advances must be underpinned by a solid foundation of information security frameworks and safeguards, without which public confidence is vulnerable as a result of any serious security breaches.

The continuous development of e-Services by the government must be congratulated as it provides simple, timely and easy access to life-enriching services and information to Hong Kong people. However, this data trove is also the hunting field of cyber criminals. Money breeds greed and (cyber)crime. Since the Internet has no national borders, the last things I want to see is Hong Kong becomes the favourite port of call by international cyber crooks. Cyber crimes are seen everyday.

Given the realistic threats of system hacking, website defacement, Advanced Persistent Threats (APT), malware attacks, disclosure of personal privacy information, identity theft and cybercrimes, to name a few, we see all over the world everyday, I would expect a more thorough treatment of the information security issue in the paper. Although the paper has generally touched on the security subject matter, I urge the Hong Kong Government to place a high priority on information security and discuss the security strategy during the inception and design phase of these projects. Effective security must be designed in and not as afterthought add-ons.

Disclosure: I am a qualified security professional with over 25 years experience in the information security field. While I currently operate a security company based in Switzerland and the UK, I was brought up in Hong Kong where I spent most of my career life. I am naturally keen to see Hong Kong prospers and realises its vision and potentials as set out in this consultation paper. I was prompted by Mr Daniel Lai personally, GCIO, to express my personal view. If I could contribute in any small way I would do so with little hesitation.

Best regards,

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