Nigerian Cyber Security Policies
Introduction

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Current cyber security strategy implemented in Nigeria
   - NCPS 2021 Policy direction
3. Developments to the National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy (NCPS)
4. Cyber security threats faced in Nigeria
5. What is Next?
Introduction

Cyber security remains a crucial component of today's digital world and as the world grows in digital connectivity, it is important that the discussion on cybersecurity, emerging cyber threats, cyber security policies and strategies also increase.

Through laws, regulations, standards and technologies, national cyber security policies are designed to guide cyber attitudes, promote good cyber ethics and ultimately safeguard a nation's cyberspace and improve its cyber-resilience.
Introduction (contd.)

Having an agile national cybersecurity policy that is constantly reviewed and appraised to meet global cybersecurity standards is no longer a luxury for any country as the repercussions of cyber-dereliction are dire.
Current cyber security strategy implemented in Nigeria

The current cyber security strategy implemented in Nigeria is the National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy (NCPS).

The NCPS, launched in 2014, was reviewed and adopted in February 2021. The NCPS is the implementation of the CYBERCRIMES (PROHIBITION, PREVENTION, ETC) ACT, 2015 in a bid to fortify Nigeria’s cyberspace, improve its cyber posture and protect national security.

In developing the NCPS 2021 and for ease of assessment of strategic goals, the policy was distilled into 3 objectives, 4 fundamental national cybersecurity considerations and 8 strategic pillars.
Current cyber security strategy implemented in Nigeria - NCPS 2021 Policy direction (Contd.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Fundamental cybersecurity considerations</th>
<th>Strategic pillars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protecting national security</td>
<td>Security and well being of the Nigerian people is as important in the cyber domain as it is in the physical domain.</td>
<td>Strengthening cybersecurity Governance and Coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Economic development</td>
<td>Technology development is critical to the attainment of Nigeria’s national priorities</td>
<td>Fostering protection of Critical National information infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting corruption</td>
<td>Cyber security is a critical enabler of economic progression and development.</td>
<td>Improving cybersecurity incident management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional and international collaboration is central and crucial to cybersecurity</td>
<td>Strengthening legal and regulatory framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancing cyber defense capability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Promoting a thriving digital economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assurance monitoring and evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancing international cooperation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Central to the NCPS 2021 is the identification of **Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII)** that are vital to national economic development, commerce, financial transactions, public safety, medical and health, government operations, and national security/defence.

The policy articulates various strategies to protect identified CNII including:

- establishing effective collaborative partnerships with CNII owners and operators,
- identifying and evaluating potential CNII,
identifying and managing cross-sectoral dependencies - proposing the adoption of a Critical Infrastructure Program for Modelling and Analysis (CIPMA),
redundancy mechanism for CNII and essential services,
development of a national information infrastructure protection plan (CNIIP) and
the integration of a periodic national vulnerability assessment into the CNIIP.
The CNII identified by the NCPS 2021 include the following:

- Power and Energy
- Water
- Information, Communication, Science and Technology
- Banking, Finance and Insurance
- Health
- Public Administration
- Education
Current cyber security strategy implemented in Nigeria - NCPS 2021 Policy direction (Contd.)

- Defence and Security
- Transport
- Food and Agriculture
- Safety and Emergency Services
- Industrial and Manufacturing
- Mines and Steel
Also worthy of note in the NCPS 2021 are the following:

❖ **Cybersecurity Incident Management:**
  ➢ coordination of National Cybersecurity Incident Management by ngCERT (Nigeria Computer Emergency Response Team).
  ➢ development of a National Cybersecurity Response Plan.
  ➢ operation of a National Cyber Emergency Monitoring System (CEMS) for effective detection and interception of cyber threats.
Current cyber security strategy implemented in Nigeria - NCPS 2021 Policy direction (Contd.)

➢ development and management of an Auto Cyber-Indicator Sharing (ACIS) system by ngCERT, to facilitate real time exchange of information on cybersecurity related incidents.

➢ capacity development to enhance incident management.

❖ Legal/Regulatory framework:

➢ Amendment of Nigerian cybercrime legislation in line with the dynamic nature of cybersecurity.

➢ Enactment and harmonization of new and existing legislations.

➢ Internet Safety and Child Online protection.

➢ Capacity development for law enforcement and judiciary.

➢ Establishment of a National Digital Forensics Laboratory.
Current cyber security strategy implemented in Nigeria - NCPS 2021 Policy direction (Contd.)

❖ Cyber Defence Capabilites:
- National Cyber Defence Coordination.
- Development of National Cyber Defence plan.
- Cyber Defence Capacity development.

❖ Digital Economy:
- Promote national cybersecurity education through uptake of cybersecurity courses at various levels in the Nigerian education system.
- Establishment of National Cybersecurity Training Institute.
- Research, development and innovation.
- Promote indigenous cybersecurity technologies.
- Raising national cyber awareness through NCAM amongst others.
The deduction from the policy direction of the NCPS 2021 is that National Cybersecurity policies should be designed and adapted to reflect and address national priorities, local context and resources. There is no one-size-fits-all template to the development of a cybersecurity policy.
A number of activities have commenced towards fulfilling the goals of the strategy. They include:

- Establishment of a National Cybersecurity Coordination Center empowered by the Cybercrime (prohibition and prevention, etc.) act 2015.
- Establishment of Sectoral Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT)
- Child online protection
- National Identification Number
- Creation of national cybersecurity information sharing and dialogue platform.
Developments to the National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy (NCPS) (Contd.)

- Identification and official recognition of certain infrastructure as Critical National Infrastructure.
- Launch of a national cybersecurity awareness campaign.
- The NCPS 2021 implementation sensitization workshops targeted at stakeholders from various sectors of the Nigerian economy.
- World-class NITDA-Computer Emergency Readiness and Response Team (NITDA-CERRT) i.e CERRTng.
- Establishment of National Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) managed by NITDA
Cyber security threats faced in Nigeria

- Cyber-terrorism
- Cybercrime
- Online child abuse
- Election interference
- Online gender exploitation
- Pandemic induced cyber threats
The future of cybersecurity continues to lie in effective collaboration/partnerships particularly with regards to information sharing and continuous cyber awareness. There is so much technology can do but the human element in cybersecurity still remains the weakness link in the cybersecurity chain and without continuous upskilling, capacity building, innovative cyber awareness strategies, a secure and resilient global cyberspace would remain elusive.
For NITDA Collaborations

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Thank You