

Cyber Defence Activities MA 2nd Semi-Annual Report – 2018/19

Private Communications Used and Retained During CSE Cyber Defence Activities Conducted Under Ministerial Authorization

For Review

- This report contains the number of private communications (PC) used and retained while conducting Cyber Defence Activities (CDA) under Ministerial Authorization (MA) during the period of 1 January 2019 – 26 May 2019 (Quarters 3 and 4 of the MA period).
- Past CDA MAs were set to expire on 30 June each year. ExCom requested a change in the 2019/20 CDA MA wording, and the new authority came into effect 27 May 2019, the date it was signed by the Minister of National Defence. Therefore, the 2018/19 CDA MA ended on 26 May 2019, shortening Quarter 4 of that MA period.
- In accordance with the *Mission Policy Suite (MPS) Part B*, the Director of the Internal Program for Operational Compliance (Dir IPOC) must report on the number of PCs used and retained during CDA conducted under MA.
- During Quarters 3 and 4 (Q3 and Q4), a total of _____ were used and retained. Of those, _____ were marked by analysts as a PC containing recognized substantive content.

Background

- A private communication (PC) is a communication containing recognized substantive content which was sent with an expectation of privacy and without malicious intent, but may contain malicious content. For example, an email sent by a non-malicious originator that, unbeknownst to them, contained malicious content such as a malicious link or embedded malicious code.
- The Minister of National Defence (MND) signed the 2018/19 CDA MA on 21 June 2018, authorizing CSE to conduct cyber defence activities, that risk the interception of PCs on Government of Canada (GC) computer systems and networks, for the period of 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.
- ExCom directed a wording change to the 2019/20 CDA MA, and the new authority came into effect the date it was signed by the MND - 27 May 2019. As a result, the 2018/19 CDA MA became void, ending Q4 on 26 May 2019. The 2019/2020 CDA MA is valid from 27 May 2019 to 26 May 2020.
- Cyber defence activities that could result in the use and retention of private communications (PC) include _____ for clients – CSE, _____ and SSC (including DND, GAC, _____), and _____ (see Annex 2 for the full list of clients). To date, _____ have never resulted in the interception of a PC.
- Operational areas use an analyst-driven method for counting PCs deemed essential and used and retained under the CDA MA. See Annex 1 for a summary of the number of communications and PCs used and retained during Q3 and Q4 of the 2018/19 MA period.
- The substantial decrease in the number of retained PCs was an anticipated result of the new PC count method, given that the majority of all communications encountered are intentionally malicious and therefore, not considered a PC.

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Quarter 3 and 4 Summary of PCs Retained

Q3 & Q4: SUMMARY OF USED AND RETAINED COMMUNICATIONS

Q3 & Q4: TOTAL NUMBER OF PCs RETAINED BY CLIENT

Communications*	PCs Used and Retained (with substantive content)
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CSE	SSC*
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Figure 1: In Q3 and Q4, Communications were used or retained based on the new interpretation, were marked as a true PC (contained recognized substantive content). Using the

Figure 2: This figure represents the number of PC used or retained in Q3 and Q4 by client.

*SSC includes DND, GAC,

*A communication is a single instance of network traffic.

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19 July 2019

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A/Director General, Program Evolution

Date

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26 July 2019

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ANNEX 1 – Summary of Communications Used and Retained Under MA in Q3 and Q4

Summary of Communications for Q3 1 January 2019 – 31 March 2019			
MA Collection	Total Number of Communications Used and Retained under MA in Q3	Total Number of PC Retained under MA in Q3	Type of PC Retained
CSE			
SSC (DND, GAC,			
TOTAL			

Summary of Communications for Q4 1 April 2019 – 26 May 2019			
MA Collection	Total Number of Communications Used and Retained under MA in Q4	Total Number of PC Retained under MA in Q4	Type of PC Retained
CSE			
SSC (DND, GAC,			
TOTAL			

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Annex 2 - Client Departments as of 26 May 2019

Communications Security Establishment (CSE);

Department of National Defence (DND)

Global Affairs Canada (GAC);

Shared Services Canada (SSC);

