



For Immediate Release

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Global Cyber Crime: Weak Laws Threaten E-Commerce *Self-Protection Is Principal Defense*

WASHINGTON—Gaps in national criminal laws make successful prosecution of international cyber crimes uncertain in many countries, according to a report issued today by McConnell International LLC, a global policy and technology management consulting firm. The report, [*Cyber Crime . . . and Punishment? Archaic Laws Threaten Global Information*](#), finds that only nine of 52 countries analyzed have extended their criminal laws into cyberspace to cover most types of cyber crimes.

“The long arm of the law does not yet reach across the global Internet,” said Bruce W. McConnell, the firm’s president. “Organizations must rely on their own defenses for now. Governments, industry, and civil society must work together to develop consistent and enforceable national laws to deter future crime in cyberspace.”

The report looked at ten different types of cyber crime in four categories: data-related crimes, including interception, modification, and theft; network-related crimes, including interference and sabotage; crimes of access, including hacking and virus distribution; and associated computer-related crimes, including aiding and abetting cyber criminals, computer fraud, and computer forgery. The report analyzed Albania, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Turkey,

United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to determine whether their laws had been amended to cover these crimes.

Thirty-three of the countries surveyed have not yet updated their laws to address any type of cyber crime. Of the remaining countries, ten have enacted legislation to address five or fewer types of cyber crime, and nine have updated their laws to prosecute against six or more of the ten types. Of those countries, only one, the Philippines, indicated that updated legislation is currently in place to prosecute a future perpetrator of all of types of crimes.

Harris Miller, President of the World Information Technology Services Alliance (WITSA), stated, "This report underscores the importance of ongoing public and private sector efforts to improve the security of cyberspace. By working closely with industry, governments can create legal regimes that deter cyber crimes while assuring continued technological growth and innovation."

In addition to highlighting the efforts of 19 countries that have partially or fully updated their criminal laws, the report identifies efforts underway in 17 countries that have not updated their laws, including Cuba, Latvia, New Zealand, and Zambia. Copies of existing and draft laws, along with the report itself, are available at <http://www.mcconnellinternational.com/>.

McConnell International positions its corporate and government clients to take maximum advantage of the new economy by providing strategic advice, building partnerships, opening doors, creating international visibility, and research, analysis, and project design. It has a world-class track record solving tough international technology management problems for large organizations and is a recognized expert on the global e-business climate.

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance is a consortium of 41 information technology (IT) industry associations from economies around the world. As the global voice of the IT industry, WITSA is dedicated to advocating policies that advance the industry's growth and development; facilitating international trade and investment in IT products and services; strengthening its national industry associations; providing members with a network of contacts; and hosting the World Congress on IT. For more information, visit <http://www.witsa.org/>.