

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
CABINET SECRETARIAT, CABINET DIVISION
NATIONAL TELECOM & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY BOARD
(NTISB-II)

No. 1-5/2003 (NTISB-II)

Islamabad July, 2018

Subject: **Advisory - Prevention Against Cyber Espionage (Advisory No 143)**

1. **Introduction.** A critical vulnerability has been found in "Cortana" an artificial intelligence-based smart assistant that Microsoft has built into all versions of Windows 10, allow cyber criminals to **unlock** your **system password** and **access** the **system**.
2. **Technical analysis**
 - a. The vulnerability can **retrieve** information from **Cortana**, **start an application** from the **Windows lock screen**, and even **log** into a Windows without a user interacting with the computer.
 - b. Hackers could also **compromise** the system completely if the user has **elevated privileges** on the targeted system.
 - c. Vulnerability details are as under:-
 - (1) **CVE Number.** CVE-2018-8140.
 - (2) **Vulnerability Impact.** Cortana **Elevation of Privilege** Vulnerability.
3. **Affected Product Versions.** This critical vulnerability affects virtual assistant "Cortana" in windows 10.
4. **Mitigation Measures.** Following best practices are suggested in this regard:-
 - a. It is advised to immediately **turn off** Cortana on the **lock screen**.
 - b. Microsoft has released **security patches** against this **vulnerability** so it is recommended to **update** your windows 10.
5. **Recommendations.**
 - a. Regularly check the **company website** for **updates** and release of **security patches**.
 - b. Strictly follow all **mitigation** measures discussed at para 4.
 - c. **Install and update well reputed antiviruses** such as Kaspersky, Avira, Avast etc.
 - d. Update all softwares including Windows OS, Microsoft Office and disable macros.

e. Don't download **attachments** from untrusted sources.

f. **Physical security** of all computers and digital devices should be ensured

6 Forwarded for perusal and dissemination of information to all concerned, please:



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