mtCERT
MITTS Ltd.
Computer Emergency Response Team
Malta
IT in Maltese Government

- 1980’s - one central Computer Centre
- Handled all Government Processing
- Batch processing
- 2 main frames handled the processing
- Network was localized in 1 site
Services Offered

- Inland Revenue
- Social Services
- Police Applications
- Telephone Bills
- Local Banks
Modern Times

- Early 1990’s government changed IT strategy
- From Centralized to Distributed
- Department to process own Data
- Share data between Departments
- MSU (later MITTS) was formed in 1990
Role of MSU (MITTS Ltd.)

- Government IT agency
- Promote the use of IT in Public Service
- BPR and Consultancy to Government
- Technical Consultancy and implementation
  - Infrastructure
  - Systems
- MAGNET was built
MAGNET- MALta Government NETwork

- Government wide network linking all Government Departments
- At first built on a 3 tier model using leased lines
- In mid 1990’s MAGNET evolved
  - Ring Structure
  - ATM technology
3 Tier MAGNET Architecture

Tier 1

MSU Corporate Data Centre

Tier 2

Ministries

Ministries

Tier 3

Departments

Departments
New MAGNET Setup

SPUR Nodes

MAIN ATM RING NODES

SPUR Nodes
Internet Connection

- In 1995 MAGNET was connected to the Internet
- Using proxy setup
- Using application firewall
- Link to the net was 384K
Restructuring

• In 1997 MSU was restructured.
• Changed name to MITTS Ltd.
• MITTS Ltd. Challenges changed
• Business consultancy removed
• Concentrate on technical aspect of IT
  – Systems Development
  – Network Infrastructure
  – Operations
Restructuring

• In 2000 the Internet setup was upgraded
• Using better technology
• Better security
• Upgrade of international link to 6Mb/s
• Usage of MAGNET increased dramatically
Threats

• Increase in MAGNET use
• Internal Threats increased
• External Threats increased
• At last management realized these threats
• Something had to be done to
  – Counter act for these attacks
  – Prevent such attacks
  – Resolve the problems if attacks occur
• mtCERT was formed
Organization Structure

Board of Directors
Mr J.R. Grima Chairman
Mr Joseph W. Izzo Director
Ms Anna Mckenna Director
Mr Anthony Diacono Director
Mr Paul Galea Director

Chief Executive Officer
Mr David Spiteri Gingell

Office of the Deputy CEO & CIO
Mr Peter Bugeja

Corporate Services Department
Mr Norman Mifsud

Strategy & Business Development Department
Mr Reuben Portiera

Projects Management Office
Mr Raymond Navarro

Service Management Department
Mr Rohan Debono

Information Security & Risk Management Department
Mr Emanuel Darmanin
mtCERT

- Team members identified
- Team formed
- Contacted some CSIRTs in Europe for help
- JANET-CERT responded
- JANET-CERT manager paid us a visit and showed us:
  - How to setup a CSIRT
  - How to operate a CSIRT
  - Introduction to other European CSIRT’s
mtCERT

- Operational Framework document
- Document defines
  - Mission Statement
  - Charter
  - Constituency
  - Policies
  - Services offered
  - Contact Information
mtCert - Mission

• Mission
  – Provide a central point of contact once an incident occurs.
  – Provide technical assistance and help to correct the damage caused by an incident.
  – Educate our clients on known threats and risks when using the Internet and how to protect themselves from these threats.
  – Advise and alert our clients, in the least possible time, on new risks and threats as well as the measures to be taken to prevent these new threats.
  – Team up with International CERT Teams to keep the CERT updated with the latest threats and methods for their prevention.
mtCERT - Charter

- mtCERT is under the patronage of MITTS Ltd.
- Under the authority of the ISRMD
- Backed up by Central Information Management Unit - Government’s IT Regulating Authority
- mtCERT activities will be limited to the company for the time being.
mtCERT Constituency

• For the time being split in 2
• Full service constituency
  – Benefit from all mtCERT services
  – Defined as all MITTS employees
• Informative constituency
  – Benefit from mtCERT Information services
  – Defined as all Government employees
• In the near future both will be as one
mtCERT Policies

• Reactive Policies
  – Type of incidents handled
    • Attacks on confidentiality, integrity etc.
  – Level of support
    • Severity of incident (high low medium)
    • Support response (immediate, normal)
  – Incident Resolution
    • Authority
    • Response times
    • Member behaviour
mtCERT Policies

• Proactive Policies
  – Behaviour of members
  – Information Classification
    • Confidential
    • Informative
  – Contact with other CSIRT’s
  – Secure Communications
mtCERT Services

• Reactive services
  – Triage
  – Incident Resolution
  – Incident Co-ordination

• Proactive Services
  – Training
  – Contacts
  – Information propagation methods
Way Forward

• Build our tool set
• Step up our activities
• Launch the team’s website on our intranet
• Maintain contact and contribute to the TF-CISRT
• Launch team within the Government and website on the net
• Join FIRST
mtCERT Contact

- MITTS Service Call Center Telephone (00356) 2599 2777
- Email mtcert.mitts@gov.mt
- mtCERT Fax (00356) 2599 2823
mtCert

Hvala

Thank You