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SENATE
P.S. Res **795**

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Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS AND THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO LOOK INTO THE 'HEARTBLEED' BUG, DUBBED AS THE NEWEST AND BIGGEST SECURITY FLAW THE INTERNET HAS EVER SEEN WHICH THREATENS TO STEAL VITAL ONLINE INFORMATION SUCH AS USERNAMES, PASSWORDS, UPLOADED CONTENTS AND EVEN CREDIT CARD INFORMATION AND PUT IN PLACE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

Whereas, an encryption flaw is being dubbed as one of the biggest and most widespread security threats in the history of the modern Internet, which may jeopardize critical information from Internet users;

Whereas, Heartbleed is a security flaw found in the popular web encryption software OpenSSL, which is used by around two thirds of websites on the Internet to protect information sent and received by users connecting to it;

Whereas, according to www.mashable.com, the Internet vulnerability has been around since December 2011, but was only recently discovered. Sixty six percent of websites run on open source security, which may be exposed to Heartbleed¹;

Whereas, Internet research firm Netcraft said about 500,000 "widely trusted websites" are vulnerable to the bug. Popular sites which exhibit support for the Heartbeat extension include Twitter, GitHub, Yahoo, Tumblr, Steam, DropBox, HypoVereinsbank, PostFinance, Regents Bank, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and the anonymous search engine DuckDuckGo.²

¹ Mashable Explains: What is the Heartbleed Encryption Bug? April 12, 2014.
<http://mashable.com/2014/04/11/mashable-explains-heartbleed-2/>

² Half a million widely trusted websites vulnerable to Heartbleed bug.
<http://news.netcraft.com/archives/2014/04/08/half-a-million-widely-trusted-websites-vulnerable-to-heartbleed-bug.html>

Whereas, the Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP) has warned the public against the newest Internet security threat, saying the Heartbleed bug allows hackers to steal users' personal information—even encrypted ones—and may compromise credit card information of clients³;

Whereas, while the CCAP assured that there was an “unlikely” possibility of a system breach among Philippine banks “as most of them use unique high-level data security and encryption measures to safeguard classified information of their clients,” the group said that the public should be “extra cautious” when transacting online. The group further noted that the public must change their passwords if they have major accounts on websites listed as vulnerable;

Whereas, in the United States, the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council has warned banks and financial institutions to further protect their systems and told consumers to change their usernames and passwords;

RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Departments of Science and Technology and of Trade and Industry to look into the ‘Heartbleed’ bug, dubbed as the newest and biggest security flaw in the history of the Internet which threatens to steal vital online information such as usernames, passwords, uploaded contents and even credit card information and put in place measures to protect the public.

Adopted,


GRACE POE

³ CCAP warns public on credit card security flaw. Manila Bulletin website. July 16, 2014. <http://www.mb.com.ph/ccap-warns-public-on-credit-card-security-flaw/>