

## Threats to govt websites expected to rise: Sukarti

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KOTA KINABALU: The State Government has not been spared by the threat of hackers as the sites of two local agencies were attacked this year.

State Computer Services Department has warned that future attacks are expect-

ed to increase while the effect will become more challenging for the department to mitigate each year.

State Secretary Tan Sri Sukarti Walkiman reminded departments on Wednesday to further strengthen the security of all sites to ensure government

information and assets remained safeguarded.

He described the results of hacking as actions "which can disrupt the security, defence, economy and function of government administrations."

His speech was read by the Deputy State

Secretary Datuk Joseph Yuntarid during the launching of the annual State Public Sector ICT Security Conference, here.

Meanwhile, Computer Services Department Director Hj Mingu Hj Jumaan said the recent attacks came from external threats from locations in Russia and China.

"At one time the attacks come from multiple locations. Our work is to just mitigate such attacks.

"We can't be sure how much of the attacks will continue to increase in future ... but so far it has yet to reach threatening levels," he said.

According to Mingu, the department has taken necessary actions to ward off attacks and had since October began to utilise the Security Information and Event Management (SIEM).

He explained said SIEM allows the department to keep record of visitors like location and time spent browsing on the site as it continues to update all the government's ICT assets and manpower.

"SIEM will allow the department to know what measures are needed to take on potential hackers. Prevention is still better than cure," he said.

Over 300 Chief Information Officers from various departments and agencies attended the one-day conference, here.