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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CYBER BENAB COMMUNITY CHIEF

Accept all cookies! Accept all cookies! This is the chilling message used by today's digital superhighway robber.

The digital superhighway transports sensitive data across globally interconnected cloud servers which are replicated across oceans and time zones to provide instantaneous access to end users.

This relentless digital traffic shifts trillions of packages containing emails, social media accounts, passports, driving licences, vehicle registration, biometrics, letters, connected vehicles, energy and household devices, shopping habits, bank, insurance, credit card and other financial services. These digital packages are sourced from billions of networked devices containing almost every aspect of our personal and business affairs.

In deciding to accept all cookies, our freedom to roam the internet has been stripped away and our movements can be tracked by every website we choose to visit.

It is therefore reasonable to suggest that people are now victims rather than consumers of technology with social media users guilty of contributory negligence.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century 'stand and delivery' highway robber was hunted down, tried and executed by the state. In comparison, today's cybercriminals are stateless and operates from the comfort of their homes or office. They operate in the shadows of the dark web using high-jacked IP addresses, usernames and passwords. Their goal is to ransom vulnerable victims whose data integrity has been compromised on the superhighway.

To the cybercriminal, success is measured by the volume of victims whose credentials are exposed during cyber hacks and the speed in extracting ransoms before the vulnerability is resolved.

The key question is: can cyberspace be nationalised? The simple answer is no.

The American second amendment provides the constitutional right for its citizens to bear arms for self-defence. However, this right of armed self-defence is ineffective against the cybercriminal who is only interested in 'the gold in them thar databases'.

In defending ourselves against cybercrime we could employ a couple strategies.

Firstly, we could withdraw entirely from the internet and live a pre-WW2 existence by rediscovering the joys of handwritten letters; travelling to our local haberdasher, grocer, butcher, chemist, bank, florist writing for our day-to-day essentials, and the occasional visits to the bright lights of the city for more exotic purchases and entertainment.

Secondly, we could get real and implement a cyberspace second amendment to protect and defend ourselves against the cybercriminal by mastering the cybersecurity survival skills.

At Cyber Benab, our bootcamps and intensive courses in cybersecurity provides the training and awareness skills which are needed to protect organisations and individuals against cyber hackers.

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