

CERT-PH Incident Response Report

Incident Name	Mass Creation of Fake Facebook Accounts
Incident Report Origin	Facebook
Date/Time Received	June 7, 2020
Assigned Ticket Number	CERT-PH#1005
Report Date	June 7, 2020
Revision Date/s and Notes	Version 1.0 / For transmittal to Facebook users and Facebook Philippines
TLP: WHITE	

Incident Background

On June 7, 2020, 9:00am, CERT-PH received reports on the proliferation of fake or dummy accounts on Facebook.

Incident Findings/Analysis

With the available artifacts and information, CERT-PH determined that multiple fake Facebook accounts were created for each person/user. These dummy accounts usually have no profile picture and have no friends. Most of the reports claimed that the fake accounts created bear the same format of Facebook profile URLs.

The impact of the created Fake Facebook accounts has not been determined yet. People who were reporting to have fake accounts relevant to this incident were from various sectors. There are cases claiming that people who were victims of the suspicious activity are those who aired grievances against the government. However, there were also reports from those who were not actively posting on political issues on their Facebook accounts. Hence, there is no clear information yet on the target group for this suspicious activity.

However from the technical perspective, CERT-PH interprets that this massive creation of different Facebook accounts cannot be done manually. The responsible person/group behind these actions may have used software or applications in order to generate these fake duplicate Facebook accounts. Based on our findings, there are various technologies which can be used for bulk creation of Social Media Accounts.

Threat Vectors/ Incident type/ Description

Computer-related Identity Theft

Impact Classification Rating

Functional – [NONE] No effect to the organization's ability to provide all services to all users.

Information – [NONE] No information was exfiltrated, changed, deleted, or otherwise compromised.

Recoverability – [NOT APPLICABLE] Not applicable; Incident does not require recovery.

Note: impact classification may be elevated to a higher impact once incident is observed or verified

Actions Taken and Recommendation

Upon detecting the incident, CERT-PH issued a ticket immediately and investigated to gather relevant information that may help in resolving the issue. Another action that CERT-PH has made is to collaborate with the CIESM Division in releasing an advisory and guide on how to report the said Fake Duplicate Facebook Accounts.

Since the intention of the cybercriminals have not yet been determined, CERT-PH recommends the following:

- Facebook users who have discovered they have fake accounts must report it to Facebook by following the instructions on this URL :
<https://www.facebook.com/CYBERSECgovph/photos/pcb.698614774041998/698614197375389/?type=3&theater>
- Change all public FB accounts to private to prevent any maliciously getting the friend list of a targeted individual.
- Complete the security configuration features of Facebook to maximize account security posture,
- Be vigilant on any unknown access and any observable changes to Facebook accounts

Also, CERT-PH is currently gathering information on the group behind the creation of mass social media accounts. The reason for the sudden surge of dummy accounts and other relevant suspicious activity is still unknown. However, CERT will establish a strong collaboration with the current investigation of the social media network, Facebook can also help in gathering more relevant information that may help in the resolution of the said incident.

CERT-PH Contact Information

For inquiries and further assistance do not hesitate to contact us at **cert-ph@dict.gov.ph** or **8920-0101 local 1708 | 09214942917**

