



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Climate Policy

Digital Trust Center (DTC)

DTC is supported by the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW), the Royal Association MKB-Nederland), the National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV), the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), ECP| Platform for the Information Society, CIO Platform Netherlands, Nederland ICT and the Dutch Chamber of Commerce.



Jointly increasing business resilience to cyber threats

Many businesses are vulnerable to cyber threats

Our society and the economy have digitised at a record pace in the last 20 years. While this offers numerous opportunities, at the same time measures are required to avert the risks of cyber threats. Digitisation opportunities can be utilised only if digital security is effectively safeguarded. However, many businesses are insufficiently aware of how to arm themselves against the cyber threats looming on the horizon. This makes their business processes and valuable data vulnerable to attacks by cyber criminals. In the worst case the very existence of a business will be at risk and this will undermine the competitive position of the Netherlands in the long term.

Digital Trust Center: making businesses more resilient

At the end of 2017, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and the Ministry of Justice and Security jointly launched the 'Digital Trust Center' (DTC) programme. The DTC's mission is to increase the resilience of businesses to cyber threats with a focus on two key tasks. Its first task is to provide businesses with reliable and independent information on digital vulnerabilities and concrete advice on the action they should take. A digital platform and other facilities will be used for this purpose. Its second task is to foster cyber security alliances between businesses. Both tasks aim to help businesses improve their cyber security arrangements and to increase their resilience to cyber threats.

The DTC works together with the NCSC

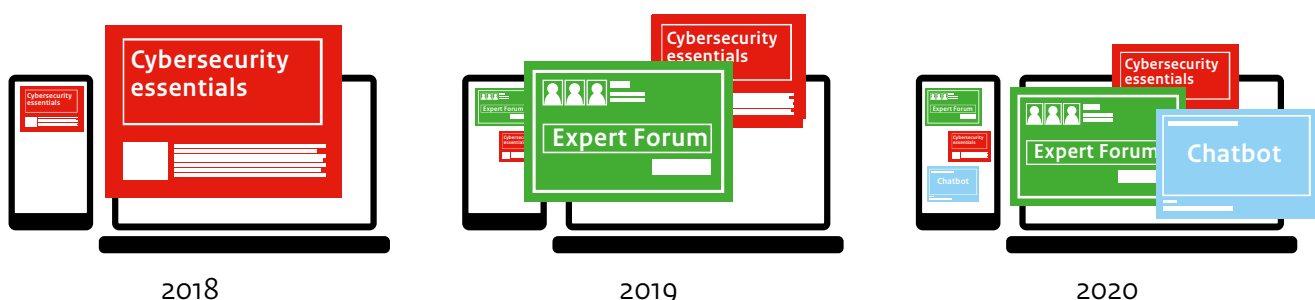
The DTC largely draws on the high-quality expertise of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), part of the Ministry of Justice and Security. The NCSC has been supporting

businesses since 2012 within the so-called critical infrastructure, such as banks, energy, water and telecommunications companies, in increasing their digital resilience. The DTC makes relevant current threat information from the NCSC and its knowledge of cyber security alliances accessible to businesses in the Netherlands.

Digital platform and subsidies for business

The DTC has a highly diverse target group of 1.6 million businesses, ranging from self-employed workers to large companies. To that end, the DTC works together with the business community, knowledge partners and other government authorities. The knowledge on security, security needs and the available financial resources of these 1.6 million businesses vary widely. The DTC will develop the following for them in 2018:

- Digital platform with current information and reliable advice.
- Subsidy scheme for businesses seeking to collaborate in the area of cyber security.



Digital Trust Platform: from information and advice to interaction extended with automation via chatbot.

1 Digital platform with current information and reliable advice

The platform assists both businesses that have a need for high-quality technical information and those that have only recently become aware of the digital risks and need more basic information to increase their resilience. This applies to acute threats as well as preventive measures.

Various government websites currently provide businesses with information on cyber security measures. The DTC has examined these websites in order to create and make available an unambiguous and recognisable information system for businesses. The current websites have insufficient availabilities for interaction and for sharing confidential information. The platform therefore offers businesses the opportunity to submit questions to experts in a closed forum so that they can receive tailor-made advice. The platform also has the functionality to receive

information from the NCSC and best practices can be shared. The platform however prohibits commercial activities and will go live in the fourth quarter of 2018. The platform will undergo further development in 2019.

Examples of information available to businesses on the platform are as follows:

- Cyber essentials: basic guidelines enabling businesses to further increase their resilience.
- Security alerts: easily understandable and current threat information together with concrete advice on what action to take.
- Step-by-step plan for businesses affected by infiltration of their ICT system, in which their data/systems have been misused, manipulated or disrupted: what they should do and which bodies to consult.

2 Subsidy scheme for business alliances

Nowadays everyone and everything is connected through technology. This brings multiple advantages, such as convenience and efficiency. Yet this connectedness also brings vulnerabilities. For this reason, in 2018 the DTC will grant subsidies to groups of businesses seeking to collaborate in the area of cyber security within their supply chain, region or sector. In recent years various initiatives have already been launched in this area, such as in the metal industry, the Port of Rotterdam and at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

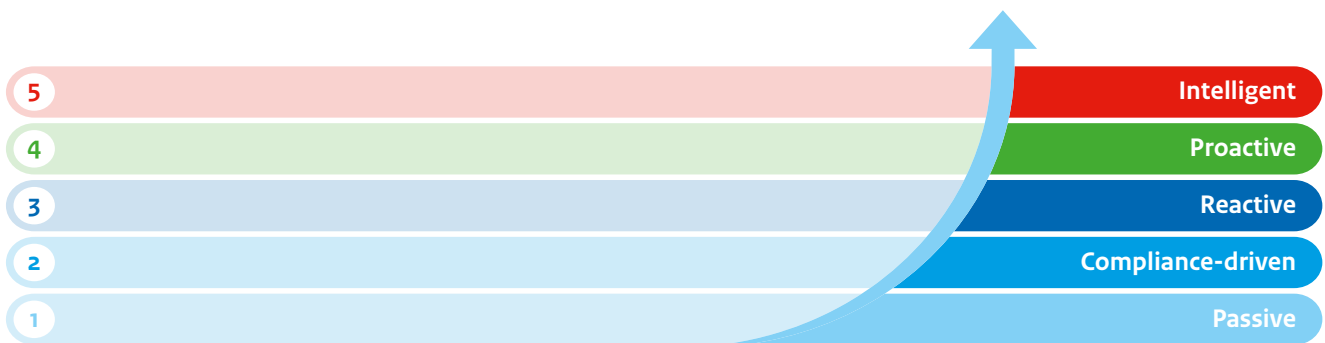
The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy will make available € 1,000,000 for subsidies in 2018. The maximum financial support per collaboration amounts to € 200,000.

The subsidy scheme and the applicable criteria have been officially announced in mid-March 2018. Businesses had an opportunity to submit an application until the end of May. The businesses eligible for the subsidy scheme will be announced in August 2018. An important requirement is that the participating businesses share their knowledge and results regarding establishing a business alliance so that the DTC can, in turn, communicate the lessons learned to other businesses. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) has administered the subsidy scheme and an independent committee has assessed the proposals.

Every business has its own level of resilience

The security measures individual businesses can or are willing to put in place vary considerably. The responsibility for IT security and the desired level of resilience lies with the business itself. Besides the available funds, for instance, the need for security also depends on the business's level of security maturity. The DTC has

identified five different levels. The DTC clarifies which measures are desirable or essential per level to increase resilience, thereby helping businesses climb one step higher up the 'resilience ladder'. The information, products and services that the DTC will offer per level will need to be decided by 2018.



Information, products and services from DTC are tailored to the security maturity level of companies.

1. Passive

Passive businesses are insufficiently aware of the threats looming on the horizon. They have hardly implemented any security measures to protect their business processes and/or valuable data.

2. Compliance-driven

These businesses are relatively aware and have limited themselves to the bare essentials: they comply with the directives, guidelines and requirements imposed by manufacturers and the government authorities (the Dutch Data Protection Authority).

3. Reactive

Reactive organisations take action if they themselves have been affected by an incident or because an incident has occurred at a similar organisation.

4. Proactive

Proactive organisations continuously strive to have a good picture of all their digital risks and vulnerabilities. They want to have a good picture of the vulnerabilities of all their fences, barriers, doors and windows as it were so that they can take appropriate measures, which they then monitor continuously.

5. Intelligent

Intelligent organisations want to ensure that their current security measures are future-proof. They need certain information for this purpose, for instance, or wish to increase collaboration with their chain partners.

Want to know more about the Digital Trust Center?

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy has the availability over €2.5 million on a structural basis. A programme council with representatives from the business community and government will review progress and issue advice on the direction and priorities of the DTC. In addition to the programme council, the DTC will also involve businesses, knowledge institutions and sector organisations in its activities. Its partners will be invited to attend a Round Table Conference a number of times per year to jointly discuss a specific topic. Would you like to register? Do you have any suggestions or ideas? Contact us at digitaltrust@minez.nl.