



## Media release

### **Kiwis' understanding of cyber security positive for the future**

**14 October 2016** – 97% of the people taking part in the Connect Smart Week “[How Cyber Smart Are You?](#)” quiz understand what a strong password is.

In other positive results, 99% know the importance of updating software and installing security patches. Participants know to use public Wi-Fi only for browsing news sites – not for sensitive documents or financial information.

The “How Cyber Smart Are You?” quiz is part of Connect Smart Week, held between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October. It is one of a suite of resources released during the week to help individuals and workplaces to stay secure online.

Nearly 3,700 people have taken the quiz since it launched earlier this week. The results have been positive but there is still room for improvement, says Paul Ash, Director of the National Cyber Policy Office.

“Ransomware was also among the top three questions people answered incorrectly – which is a concern given we are increasingly seeing businesses held “ransom” by cyber attackers who lock down an organisation’s data until a fee is paid.”

Only around 70% know the definition of ransomware, and fewer still are familiar with two-factor authentication. Nearly 25% are unable to identify the indicators of a secure website.

Of the 3,700 people who have taken the quiz so far, most were in Wellington (1,181), followed by Auckland (714), the Waikato (499) and Canterbury (370). Almost half of those who took the quiz (1,664) worked in central or local government, or in IT.

The focus of this third Connect Smart Week has been cyber security in the workplace. During the Week, organisations across the country have run campaigns to help employees protect themselves online and prevent cyber incidents.

“The good news is that help is available,” Mr Ash says. “There is a range of great resources for individuals and businesses on the Connect Smart website – [www.ConnectSmart.govt.nz](http://www.ConnectSmart.govt.nz).”

“Employees at all levels have a role to play in protecting the information that belongs to their workplace,” says Mr Ash.

Connect Smart resources, including the “How Cyber Smart Are You?” online quiz, have helped to build awareness and increase knowledge about good cyber practice for individuals, particularly in the workplace.

“Cyber security is a 24/7 issue,” says Mr Ash. “It is important that organisations and employees remain focused on staying secure online all year round, and not just during Connect Smart Week. Connect Smart resources can be used to run an event or to promote online security at any time of the year.”

"It is not complicated – a few basic steps can mean your personal information or your work information is more secure. Resources like the quiz can make it fun," says Mr Ash.

This year, New Zealand worked closely with Australia and the Australian cyber security week [Stay Smart Online](#) ran at the same time. Both countries recognise that cyber security is fundamental to our economic prosperity in a world increasingly linked by the Internet.

For more information about Connect Smart Week and resources, visit <https://www.connectsmart.govt.nz>

### **About Connect Smart:**

Connect Smart is a public-private partnership that promotes ways for individuals, businesses and schools to protect themselves online. Connect Smart is led by the government's National Cyber Policy Office (NCPO) within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Connect Smart initiative has been developed in partnership with the public and private sector, with support from Platinum Partners ASB, BNZ and Spark; Gold Partners ANZ, Datacom, Deloitte, Facebook, FireEye, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, KPMG and Microsoft; and Silver Partners Dimension Data, International Underwriting Agencies and Marsh.

For further information on how to Connect Smart, or to become a Connect Smart partner, visit <https://www.connectsmart.govt.nz>, and follow us at @ConnectSmartNZ #ConnectSmartWeek

### **ENDS**

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