

URGENT CYBERSECURITY ALERT REGARDING APACHE LOG4J

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Canada's Minister of National Defence has issued a [statement](#) regarding a recently identified critical vulnerability in the Apache Log4j logging product. The threat has potential for exploitation by bad actors for use in cybersecurity attacks, including against sensitive information assets. Open-source reporting indicates that the critical vulnerability is actively being scanned for and exploited.

It is being reported that various Canadian public agencies are temporarily taking down online services as a preventative measure, including the CRA, Metrolinx and thousands of government websites in Quebec.

The Canadian Centre for Cybersecurity has released [technical guidance](#) about the issue and has called on all Canadian organizations to immediately follow recommended steps to protect themselves from the vulnerability. The suggested steps include:

1. internally reviewing all potentially impacted applications;
2. if possible, upgrading to Apache Log4j version 2.15, which addresses the vulnerability
3. if upgrading is not immediately possible, applying workarounds suggested by Apache; and
4. reviewing logs for signs of compromise.

Canada's Minister of National Defence also directs organizations that depend on third-party service providers to engage them immediately to inquire about the actions they are taking.

If your organization uses Apache Log4j, please ensure that you are taking necessary steps to address the vulnerability noted above, including following the steps recommended by the Minister of National Defence and the Canadian Centre for Cybersecurity.

If you believe that your information systems have been exploited, we recommend that you contact your legal counsel immediately. Our team of privacy and cybersecurity lawyers at McMillan LLP are ready to assist to the extent you require any support.

by [Mitch Kocerginski](#) and [Lyndsay Wasser](#)

A Cautionary Note

The foregoing provides only an overview and does not constitute legal advice. Readers are cautioned against making any decisions based on this material alone. Rather, specific legal advice should be obtained.

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