

UK Leads World Cyber Race

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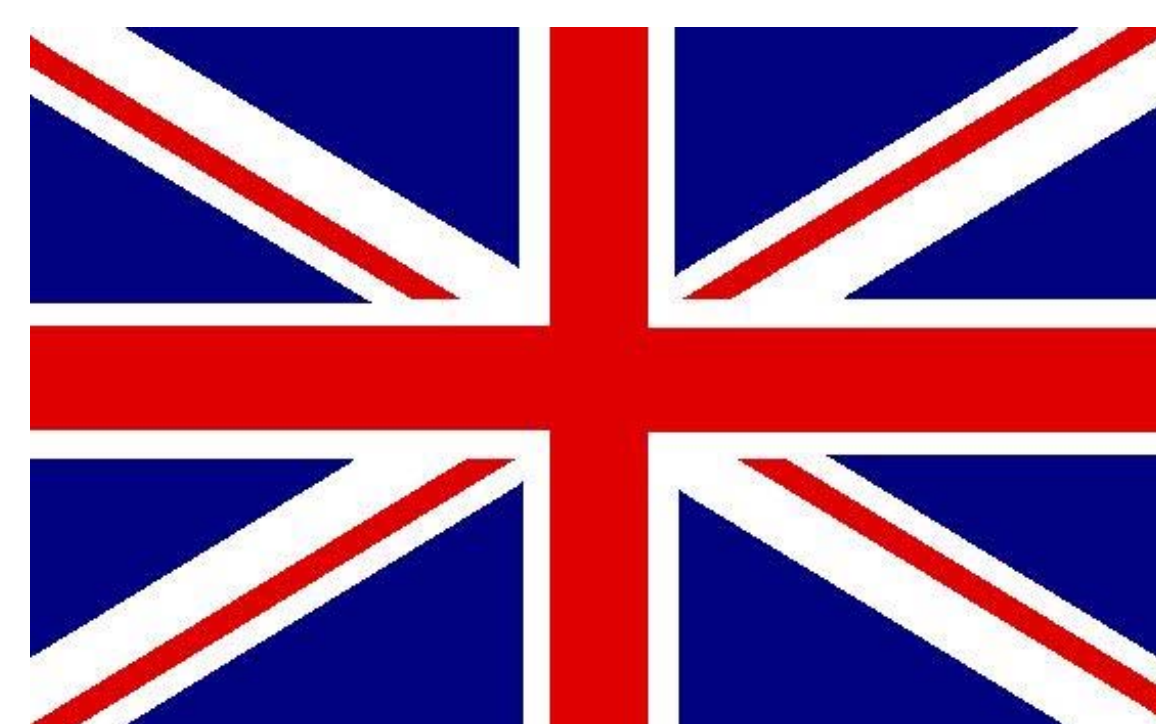
Background: The United Kingdom has shown it is ready, willing, and able to reign in the Information Age. The UK defines cyber space as “an interactive domain” which is comprised of networks which store, modify, and communicate information. The Internet is not the only piece of cyber space; information systems, infrastructure, and services also play a part.

Strategies for an Information Age

Much of the United Kingdom’s success comes from its implementation of the strategies outlined in the National Cyber Security Strategy. All of the goals from 2009 have been met and the plan has since been updated in November 2011. It set forth goals to be attained by 2015.

Current Strategies

- Reduce cyber crime, make the UK a more secure place for business
- Increase resilience to cyber attack
- Be ready to protect cyber interests
- Guide the shaping of cyber space for safe public use
- Build pool of knowledge, skills, and capabilities to help all other goals



Assessment

The United Kingdom is leading by example. They are one of the few nations that have a well defined National Cyber Strategy. Access, quality, and willingness to spend show other nations what can be done with enough determination.

Capabilities of the United Kingdom

In a report, the Cyber Power Index, published by Booz Allen Hamilton the UK was ranked highest. It was followed closely by the United States, Australia, Germany, and Canada. Cyber power was defined by the report as “the **ability to withstand cyber attacks** and to **deploy** the digital infrastructure necessary for a **productive** and **secure economy**.”

Current Capabilities

The United Kingdom is currently ranked first in technology infrastructure.

- Many people have access to high speed, good quality broadband.
- There is a high degree of Wi-Fi penetration.
- The UK lead the world in IT project spending for 2011.

They are not without their own issues

- Home to the most expensive and taxing IT project (UK National Health Service)
- Lacks the technical education and skill found in many Asian countries