

# Lloyd's List

## Widespread cyber threat low but potential for disruption high

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The US Maritime Resource Center has found significant potential for cyber disruption within shipping.

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### BIMCO addresses cyber security at annual conference

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DISPARATE IT systems and industry due diligence will keep the threat of a widespread cyber attack on shipping low, but the potential for disruption remains high, a BIMCO conference heard today.

Templar Executives chief executive, Andrew Fitzmaurice, told delegates that the increasing reliance of shipping companies on technology means the industry must protect its assets from cyber threats.

The US Maritime Resource Center's Captain Alexander Soukhanov said that his organisation had found significant potential for cyber disruption in the shipping industry, including exposure of critical data systems, corruption of navigation charts and malicious takeover of engineering controls.

BIMCO has been developing guidance on the issue of cyber security for shipping since 2013 and is soon to launch guidance along with other associations on protecting vulnerable

systems and businesses.

BIMCO president Philippe Louis-Dreyfus commented: "It would be very unlikely to see a widespread cyber attack on shipping because ships across the world use so many different IT systems. Also, because all parties involved — such as shipowners, classifications societies, equipment-makers, and so on — will do their 'homework'.

"Nevertheless, a cyber attack could have serious consequences — not just for your ship but for the reputation of your business. BIMCO is doing its job to increase industry awareness of the risk."

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