

3 Billion Malware Attacks and Counting



Peter Silva, 2011-08-04

Almost half the total population of this planet. At this rate, we'll all have our own personalized malware in the coming years, specifically tailored for our various behaviors. I built this infection especially for you. Symantec recently released their annual [Internet Security Threat Report](#) for 2010 and noted that the cyber threats are increasing both in sophistication and frequency. They found more than 286 million new threats last year with [social networks](#) and [mobile devices](#) being a favorite targets. Mobile vulnerabilities were up 42% with 163 discovered last year. The U.S. actually topped the list in many nasty categories: [Most targeted country by DoS attacks \(65% of total\)](#), [most bot command and control servers \(37% of total\)](#), [most infected computers \(14% of total\)](#) and [most overall malicious activity \(19% of total\)](#).

As you may know, I like numbers and statistics and there were a couple supplemental reports that I found interesting. [The Year in Numbers](#) and [The 2010 Timeline](#). Each is a single page report with highlights from the year. The highlights, or lowlights depending on your view are:

- **93% Increase in Web Based Attacks** - URL shorts were the main culprit accounting for 65% of the malicious URLs over a 3 month period.
- **260,000 Identities Exposed per Breach** - The average number for each of the data breaches during the year.
- **42% More Mobile Vulnerabilities** - Remember, we're now keeping our lives on these devices.
- **6,253 New Vulnerabilities** - More than any previous year and new vendors affected by a vulnerability grew 161%.
- **14 New Zero-Day Vulnerabilities** - From IE to Flash to Reader. Stuxnet used 4 unique zero-days.
- **74% Pharmaceutical Spam** - 3/4 of all spam were for Rx pills. Will you take the red one or the blue one?
- **1 Million Plus Bots** - Rustock had over a million bots under control. No draft dodgers here.
- **\$15 per 10,000 bots** - Utility spam services...Get your bot herrrrrrrrrah.
- **\$.07 to \$100 per Credit Card** - Cost of a stolen credit card but if you buy in bulk, get a discount.

Lastly, if you are [looking for porn, then more than likely you'll find malware](#) and the [leading culprit of a breach which could lead to identity theft](#) was a lost/stolen computer or data storage device. One of the cool things about the data offered is the ability to build [your own custom report](#). You can select various topics or trends to customize the report specifically to your area of interest.

Resources

- [Symantec Threat Activity Report: U.S. Tops the List](#)
- [Looking for malware? Search for porn](#)
- [Internet Security Threat Report, Volume 16](#)
- [Build your custom version of the Internet Security Threat Report, Volume 16](#)
- [The Big Attacks are Back...Not That They Ever Stopped](#)
- [Where Do You Wear Your Malware?](#)
- [A Digital Poltergeist On Your Television](#)
- [The New Wallet: Is it Dumb to Carry a Smartphone?](#)
- [Social Media – Friend or Foe](#)

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