Why is ransomware rising?

See the full report to learn more. »

IN TODAY'S BUSINESS REALITY

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*As a best practice, SonicWall routinely optimized its methodologies for data collection, analysis and reporting. This includes adjustments to data cleansing, changes in data sources and consolidation of threat feeds. Figures published in previous reports may have been adjusted across different time periods, regions or industries.

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AS WORKING SITUATIONS EVOLVED IN 2021, so did the methods of threat actors and motivated perpetrators. Threat actors are using any means necessary — lax security controls, unpatched vulnerabilities, zero-days and supply-chain weaknesses — for malicious gain and global unrest.

RYUK THE TOP RANSOMWARE… AGAIN

This latest data shows sophisticated threat actors are tirelessly adapting their tactics and embracing ransomware to reap financial gain and sow discord.

BILL CONNER  |  PRESIDENT & CEO  |  SONICWALL

RANSOMWARE AT ALL-TIME HIGH

The disruption of a global pandemic impacted everything from the highest levels of federal government down to the way kindergartners learned to read. Cybercriminals exploited the changing environment.

Ransomware attacks in the first half of 2021 have already eclipsed the entire volume total of 2020 — a 151% year-to-date increase.

The top ransomware of 2021, Ryuk, was recorded by SonicWall nearly every nine seconds during its peak in June. In the first half of 2021, 93.9 million instances of Ryuk were recorded.

In the first six months of 2021, global ransomware volume reached an unprecedented 304.7 million attempted attacks.

Q1 Q2
Q3 Q4
59.6M 61.7M
78.3M 104.9M
115.8M 188.9M

IoT CONTINUES ITS CLimb

Savvy cybercriminals pushed IoT malware to a 59% year-to-date increase in 2021. In all, 32.2 million IoT attacks have been recorded so far compared with 20.2 million during the same time period last year.

GLOBAL CYBERATTACK TRENDS

MALWARE ATTACKS

+59%

ENCRYPTED THREATS

+26%

CRYPTOJACKING ATTACKS

+23%

INTRUSION ATTEMPTS

+9%

MALWARE ATTACKS

-22%

RANSOMWARE ATTACKS

+59%

IoT ATTACKS

+59%

51.1 Million CRYPTOJACKING ATTACKS

2.5 Trillion INTRUSION ATTEMPTS

2.1 Million ENCRYPTED THREATS

304.7 Million RANSOMWARE ATTACKS

32.2 Million IoT ATTACKS

115.8 Million MALWARE ATTACKS

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#KnowTheThreats

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GLOBAL CYBERATTACK TRENDS