



SONICWALL®

2024

SONICWALL  
CYBER THREAT  
REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cyberattacks increased two to threefold across nearly every tracked metric in 2023, as threat actors continued to ramp up and diversify their attacks. To give the world's defenders the actionable threat intelligence needed to fight against this relentless surge in cybercrime, we've compiled our research into this report. Here's a preview of the year's most critical findings.

### 2023 TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Amid 2023's rapidly evolving threat landscape, SonicWall Capture Labs threat researchers observed several new tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), including the use of Microsoft OneNote files as an initial vector. Massive campaigns targeting vulnerabilities in WinRAR and MOVEit, as well as a new critical zero-day [vulnerability affecting Apache OFBIZ](#), were also uncovered. Researching and publishing these developments is part of our commitment to empowering our valued partners and the interconnected cybersecurity community.

▲ 11%



#### MALWARE

Malware rose 11% to 6.06 billion attacks in 2023 — the highest attack volume since 2019. North America and LATAM attacks rose 15% and 30% respectively, offsetting small decreases in Asia and Europe.

**MORE  
THAN  
DOUBLED**



## **ENCRYPTED THREATS**

Encrypted attacks rose 117% in 2023, totaling nearly as many as in 2021 and 2022 combined. This jump was fueled by increases across the globe: North America, where attacks rose 30%, saw the smallest rise, while Europe, Asia and LATAM recorded spikes of 182%, 462% and 527%, respectively.

**3<sup>RD</sup>  
HIGHEST  
YEAR ON  
RECORD**



## **RANSOMWARE**

In 2023, ransomware soared through the summer, nearly eclipsing 2021's unprecedented highs. While lower volumes the rest of 2023 resulted in 36% fewer ransomware attacks year over year, these summer spikes drove attack volumes high enough to make 2023 the third-worst year for ransomware.

*"With a rich 32-year history as our foundation, SonicWall continues to publish the Cyber Threat Report to provide threat intelligence to not only offer actionable insight, but to drive our roadmap and build products that help our partners, who need proven solutions and proactive strategies based on the most up-to-date threat intelligence. That's why SonicWall continues to publish threat intelligence with actionable insights to mount the strongest defense possible."*

**-SONICWALL PRESIDENT AND CEO BOB VANKIRK**

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### **About SonicWall**

SonicWall is a cybersecurity forerunner with more than 30 years of expertise and a relentless focus on its partners. With the ability to build, scale and manage security across the cloud, hybrid and traditional environments in real time, SonicWall can quickly and economically provide purpose-built security solutions to any organization around the world. Based on data from its own threat research center, SonicWall delivers seamless protection against the most evasive cyberattacks and supplies actionable threat intelligence to partners, customers and our cybersecurity community.

As a best practice, SonicWall routinely optimizes its methodologies for data collection, analysis and reporting. This includes improvements 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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