HACKMAGEDDON

Information Security Timelines and Statistics

Cyber Attacks Statistics   Cyber Attacks Timeline   Security

2018: A Year of Cyber Attacks

January 15, 2019   Paolo Passeri   1 Comment   2017, 2018, Cyber Attacks, Cyber Crime, Cyber Espionage, Cyber Warfare, Hacktivism, Statistics, Timeline

Views: 12,048

Finally I can summarize all the events and statistics collected in 2018, quite a complicated year from an infosec perspective. For those of you that keep asking, every two weeks (more or less) I publish a timeline with the main cyber attacks occurred in that period. Every timeline contains the link with the details of the events, and finally, every month (more or less), the timelines are aggregated to provide a statistical overview of the period. Moreover, the taxonomy of the categories is inherited from the International Standard Industrial Classification

So during 2018, I have collected a total of 1337 events that you can find in the following table (and after the table you will find the **statistics**):

Print   Excel   CSV   Copy   PDF

Show   10   entries

Search:

Date	Author	Target	Description	Attack	Target Class	Attack Class	Country	Link

Date	Author	Target	Description ▲	Attack	Target Class	Attack Class	Coun try	Link
01/10/ 2018	Attacke rs linked to Saudi Arabia?	Canadian permane nt resident and Saudi dissident Omar Abdulaziz	A report from The Citizen Lab reveals that the Canadian permanent resident and Saudi dissident Omar Abdulaziz was targeted by an attack infecting his phone with NSO's Pegasus spyware.	Malware /PoS Malware	X Individual	Cybe r Espio nage	CA	Link (http s://ci tizenl ab.ca /201 8/10/ the- kingd om-- came -to- cana da- how- saudi - linke d- digita l- espio nage - reach ed- cana dian- soil/)
01/10/ 2018	?	Apollo	Apollo, a sales engagement startup boasting a database of more than 200 million contact records, is hacked and sends an email to its affected customers.	Unknow n	S Other service activities	Cybe r Crim e	US	Link (http s://te chcru nch.c om/2 018/ 10/0 1/ap ollo- conta cts- data- breac h/)
01/10/ 2018	Roamin g Mantis	iOS Users	Kaspersky discover that the Roaming Mantis group is testing a new monetization scheme by redirecting iOS users to pages that contain the Coinhive in-browser mining script rather than the normal Apple phishing page.	Maliciou s Script Injectio n	X Individual	Cybe r Crim e	>1	Link (http s://s ecure list.c om/r oami ng- manti s- part- 3/88 071/)
02/10/ 2018	Hidden Cobra AKA Lazarus Group	US Banks	A joint technical alert from the DHS, the FBI, and the Treasury warns about a new ATM cash-out scheme, dubbed "FASTCash," used by the Hidden Cobra APT.	Malware /PoS Malware	K Financial and insurance activities	Cybe r Crim e	US	Link (http s://s ecurit yaffai rs.co/ word press /767 98/h ackin g/fas tcash - hidde n- cobra - attac ks.ht ml)

Date	Aut...	Target	Description	Att...	Targ...	...	...	L...

Date	Author	Target	Description ▲	Attack	Target Class	Atta ck Clas s ▲	Coun try ▲	Link
02/10/2018	?	SBM Holdings (State Bank of Mauritius India)	Mauritius banking group SBM Holdings unveils that its Indian operations suffered a cyber fraud earlier in the week, and that the bank has potentially lost up to $14 million worth. The bank is able to recover $10 million.	Fraudul ent SWIFT Transac tions	K Financial and insurance activities	Cybe r Crim e	IN	Link (https://www.bloombergquint.com/business/cyberattack-on-indian-operations-of-state-ban…-of-mauritius#gs.x1XBwoM)
02/10/2018	?	Individuals in the US	Researchers from ProofPoint discover a new DanaBot campaign spread through Malspam campaign installing the Hancitor malware.	Malware /PoS Malware	X Individual	Cybe r Crim e	US	Link (https://www.proofpoint.com/us/threat-insight/post/danabot-gains-popularity-and-targets-us-organizations-large-campaigns)

Date	Aut...	Target	Description		Att...	Targ...	...	...	L...

Date	Author	Target	Description ▲	Attack	Target Class	Attack Class ▲	Country ▲	Link
02/10/2018	?	Android Users in Japan and Korea	Researchers from Fortinet unveil a new round of attack carried on via the FakeSpy Android malware.	Malware /PoS Malware	X Individual	Cyber Crime	>1	Link (https://news.softpedia.com/news/fakespy-is-back-as-part-of-new-smishing-campaign-adds-new-features-523040.shtml)
02/10/2018	?	City of Regina	A city of Regina email is hacked, and used as a phishing tool to try and get passwords and emails from other city of Regina staff as well as external groups.	Account Hijacking	O Public administration, defence, compulsory social security	Cyber Crime	CA	Link (https://globalnews.ca/news/4521346/city-of-regina-email-hacked-experts-warn-citys-website-unsafe-as-well/)
02/10/2018	?	WhatsApp Users in Israel	A wave of reports about hijacked WhatsApp accounts in Israel has forced the government's cyber-security agency to send out a nation-wide security alert.	Account Hijacking	X Individual	Cyber Crime	IL	Link (https://www.zdnet.com/article/recent-wave-of-hijacked-whatsapp-accounts-traced-back-to-voicemail-hacking/)
Date	Aut...	Target	Description	Att...	Targ...	...	...	L...

Date	Author	Target	Description ▲	Attack Class	Target Class	Attack Class s ▲	Coun try ▲	Link
03/10/ 2018	APT10 AKA Red Apollo, Stone Panda, POTASS IUM, MenuPa ss, Cloud Hopper, Red Leaves	Managed Service Providers	The US Department of Homeland Security issues an alert about "ongoing" cyber-attacks against managed service providers, indirectly attributed to APT10.	Targete d Attack	J Informati on and communi cation	Cybe r Espio nage	US	Link (http s://w ww.z dnet. com/ articl e/dhs - awar e-of- ongoi ng- apt- attac ks- on- cloud - servi ce- provi ders/)
Date	Aut...	Target	Description	Att...	Targ...	...	...	L...

Showing 1 to 10 of 1,337 entries

« ‹ **1** 2 3 4 5 ... 134 › »

Now, let's have a closer look at the statistics derived from the mega timeline of 2018. The **first chart** compares the total events in 2017 and 2018 on a monthly basis. Clearly, with the sole exception of August, the level of activity has been constantly higher in 2018.

Monthly Attacks (2017 vs 2018)
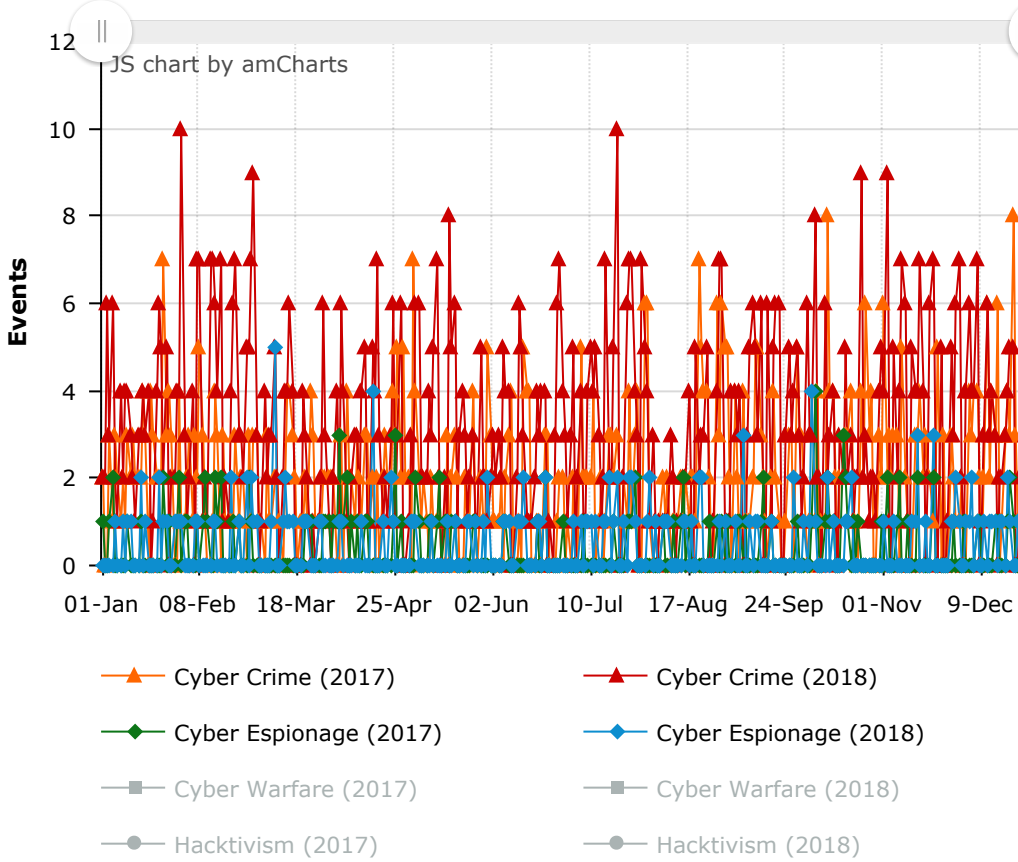
hackmageddon.com
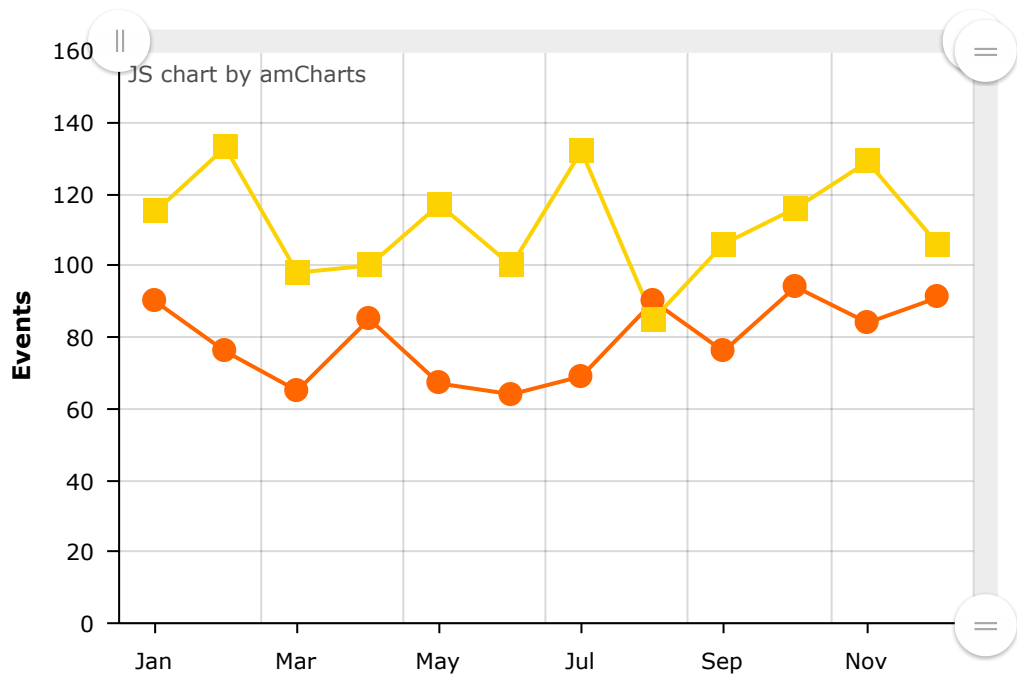
The **daily detail** is provided in the following charts, which also shows the breakdown for each category. The chart is interactive so you can see the

ABOUT   SUBMIT AN ATTACK   CYBER ATTACKS TIMELINE ⌄   CYBER ATTACKS STATISTICS

Daily Events Per Category (2017 vs 2018)

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- ▲ Cyber Crime (2017)
- ▲ Cyber Crime (2018)
- ◆ Cyber Espionage (2017)
- ◆ Cyber Espionage (2018)
- ■ Cyber Warfare (2017)
- ■ Cyber Warfare (2018)
- ● Hacktivism (2017)
- ● Hacktivism (2018)

The following charts compare the **distribution of motivations** between 2017 and 2018: as expected also in 2018 **cyber crime** leads the chart with an increase of nearly 5 points in comparison to 2017. All the other motivations (cyber espionage, hacktivism and cyber warfare) has experienced a decrease in 2018.

Motivations (2017): 951 Events

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- 3.36%
- 4.73%
- 14.51%
- 77.39%
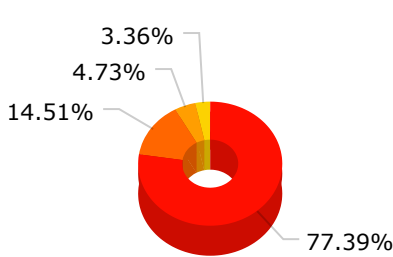
Motivations (2018): 1337 Events

hackmageddon.com

- 2.47%
- 2.84%
- 12.86%
- 81.82%

- ■ Cyber Crime
- ■ Cyber Espionage
- ■ Cyber Crime
- ■ Cyber Espionage
- ■ Hacktivism
- ■ Cyber Warfare
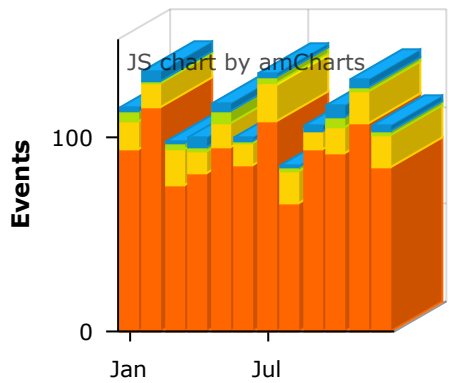- ■ Hacktivism
- ■ Cyber Warfare
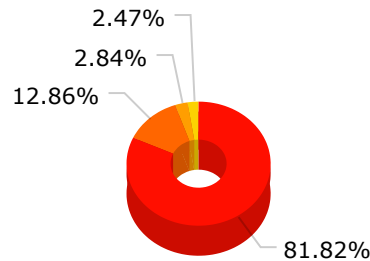
The following charts compare the **monthly distributions** broken down across the different categories for 2018 and 2017:

Monthly Distribution Motivations of (2018)

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Monthly Distribution Motivations of (2017)

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JS chart by amCharts
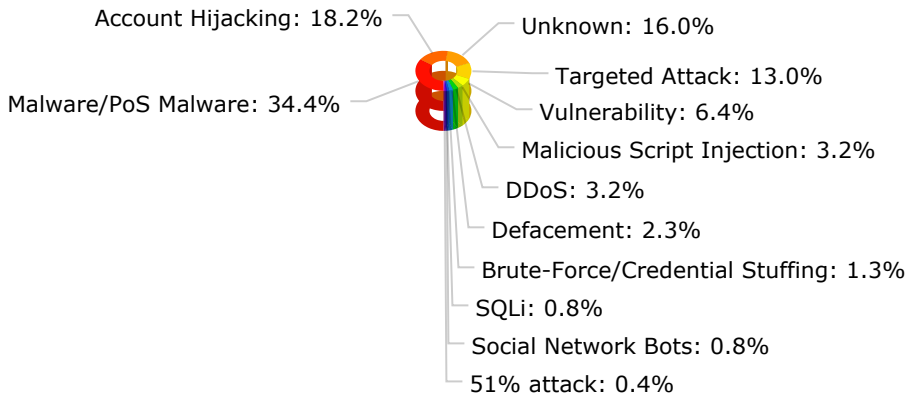
JS chart by amCharts

- Cyber Crime
- Cyber Espionage
- Cyber Warfare
- Hacktivism

- Cyber Crime
- Cyber Espionage
- Cyber Warfare
- Hacktivism

Malware (and I would add unsurprisingly) leads the chart of the **Top 10 Attack Techniques**:

JS chart by amCharts

Account Hijacking: 18.2%

Unknown: 16.0%

Targeted Attack: 13.0%

Malware/PoS Malware: 34.4%

Vulnerability: 6.4%

Malicious Script Injection: 3.2%

DDoS: 3.2%

Defacement: 2.3%

Brute-Force/Credential Stuffing: 1.3%

SQLi: 0.8%

Social Network Bots: 0.8%

51% attack: 0.4%

🔴 Malware/PoS Malware	441	🟠 Account Hijacking	233
🟠 Unknown	205	🟡 Targeted Attack	167
🟡 Vulnerability	82	🟢 Malicious Script Injection	41
🟢 DDoS	41	🔵 Defacement	29
🔵 Brute-Force/Credential Stuffing	17	🟣 SQLi	10
🟣 Social Network Bots	10	🔴 51% attack	5

While individuals are still the **preferred targets** for cyber criminals:

Human health, social work: 9.3%
Public administration, defence,
social security: 12.5%
Financial and insurance: 6.2%
Education: 5.5%
Multiple Industries: 15.6%
Information, communication: 5.5%
Arts entertainment, recreation: 3.9%
Individuals: 22.5%
Fintech: 3.3%
Wholesale, retail trade: 2.5%
Accommodation, food services: 2.3%
Other services: 2.3%
Transportation, Storage: 1.9%
Manufacturing: 1.8%
Electricity, gas steam, air
conditioning supply: 1.3%
Professional scientific, technical: 1.2%
Extraterritorial organizations and
bodies: 0.9%
Administrative and support services:

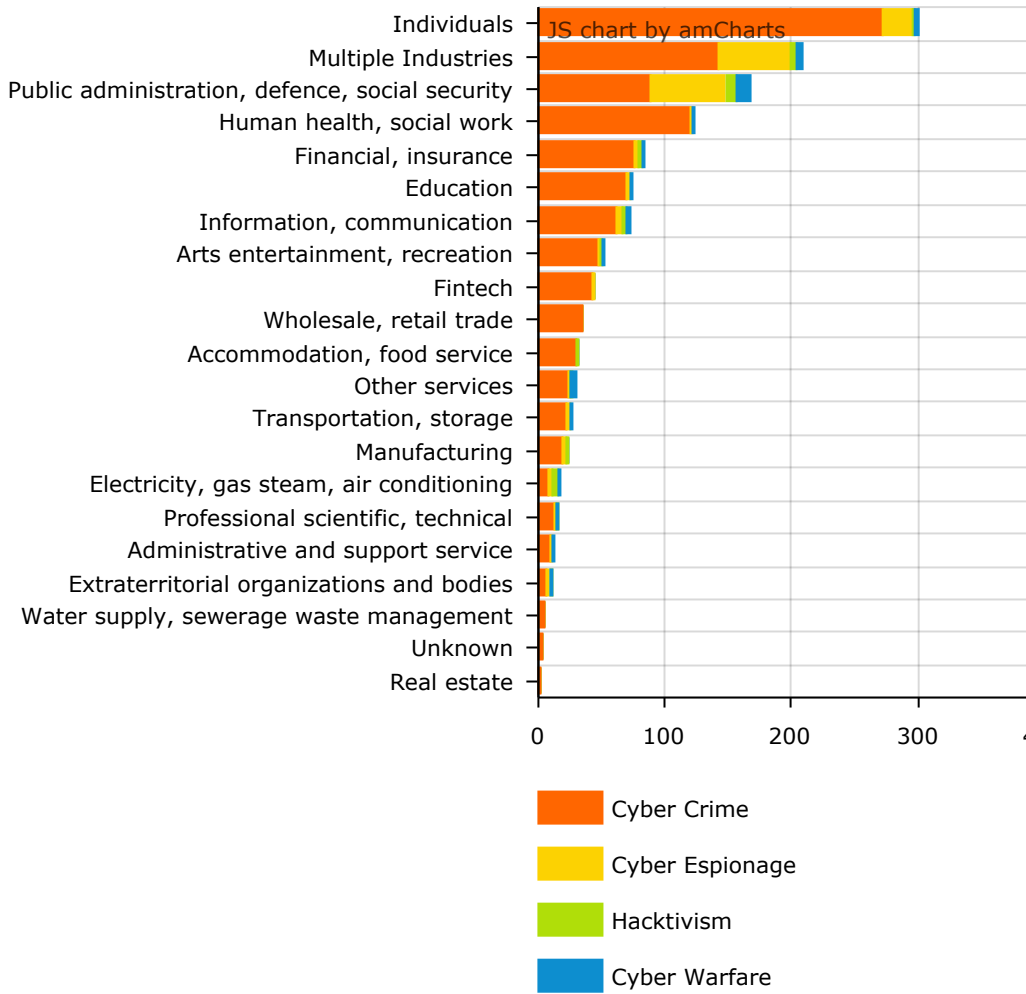| 🔴 Individuals | 301 |
🟠 Multiple Industries	208
🟠 Public administration, defence, social security	167
🟡 Human health, social work	124
🟡 Financial and insurance	83
🟢 Education	74
🟢 Information, communication	73
🔵 Arts entertainment, recreation	52
🔵 Fintech	44
🔵 Wholesale, retail trade	34
🟣 Accommodation, food services	31
🟣 Other services	31
🟣 Transportation, Storage	26
⚪ Manufacturing	24
⚫ Electricity, gas steam, air conditioning supply	17
⚫ Professional scientific, technical	16
⚫ Extraterritorial organizations and bodies	12
🟤 Administrative and support services	12
🟡 Water supply, sewerage waste management	4
🔴 Unknown	3
🟤 Real estate	1

The following chart shows the **breakdown of motivations** for each target
sector. Please notice the influence of cyber crime for the healthcare sector.

Motivations by Sector (2018)

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JS chart by amCharts

Chart categories (top to bottom):
- Individuals
- Multiple Industries
- Public administration, defence, social security
- Human health, social work
- Financial, insurance
- Education
- Information, communication
- Arts entertainment, recreation
- Fintech
- Wholesale, retail trade
- Accommodation, food service
- Other services
- Transportation, storage
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, gas steam, air conditioning
- Professional scientific, technical
- Administrative and support service
- Extraterritorial organizations and bodies
- Water supply, sewerage waste management
- Unknown
- Real estate

X-axis: 0, 100, 200, 300, 4[00]

Legend:
- Cyber Crime
- Cyber Espionage
- Hacktivism
- Cyber Warfare

And I think that for 2018 is pretty much everything. Feel free to share the links and use the data (for personal purposes) as needed. Also remember that this is only the tip of the iceberg, and obviously my stats can't be comprehensive. My humble mission is just to rise the awareness and keep the level of attention on the cyber threats constantly high.
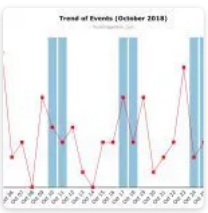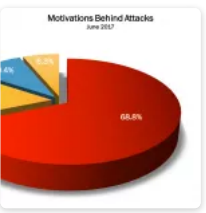
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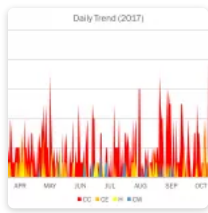
2017 Cyber Attacks Statistics
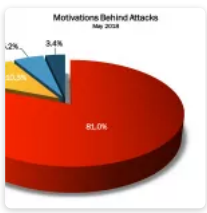
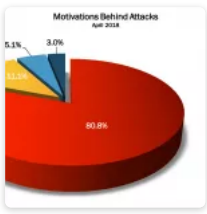**May 2018 Cyber Attacks Statistics**

October 2018 Cyber Attacks Statistics

June 2017 Cyber Attacks Statistics

December 2018 Cyber Attacks Statistics

April 2018 Cyber Attacks Timeline

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1-15 January 2019 Cyber Attacks Timeline →

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👤 Matt Fagala
🗓 January 15, 2019 at 4:34 pm
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