

ACICE Issue 2/21 (October)

ACICE Monthly Digest

A monthly roundup of significant news from around the world

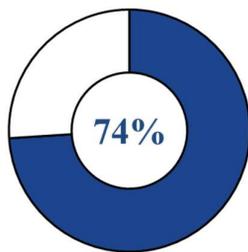


ADMM Cybersecurity and
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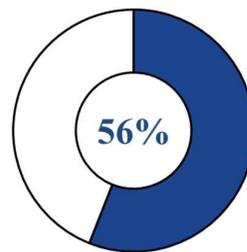
Information and Cybersecurity

Growing Fear Among Asia-Pacific Businesses about Cyber Threats

- In a report released in Sep 2021, Cisco reported that a majority of small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) across the Asia-Pacific region felt exposed to cyber threats.
- Across the Asia-Pacific region, 74% of SMBs believed that a serious cyber incident could end their business. These fears were not unfounded. 56% of SMBs suffered a cyber incident in the past 12 months.



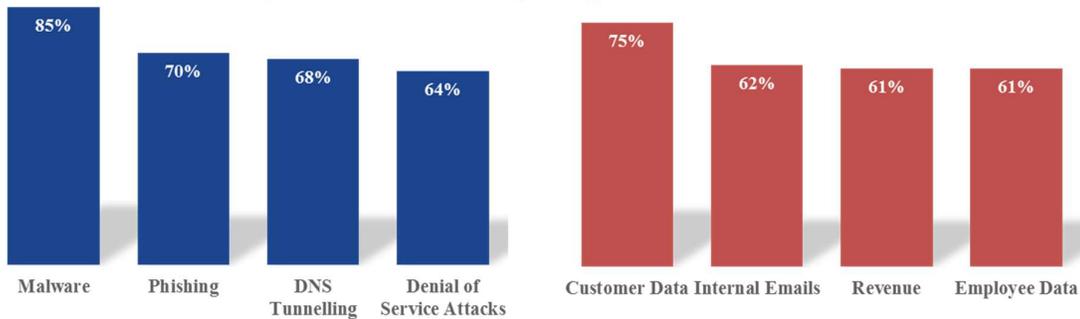
Of SMBs said that a serious cyber incident could end their business



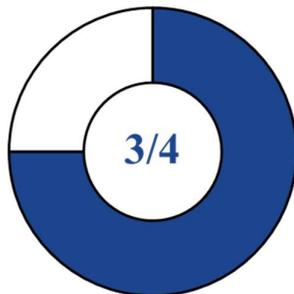
Of SMBs suffered a cyber incident in the past 12 months

- The types of cyber incidents experienced by SMBs include malware (85%), phishing attacks (70%), DNS tunnelling (68%), and denial of service attacks (64%).
- As a result of these cyber incidents, SMBs experienced loss in terms of customer data (75%), internal emails (62%), revenue (61%), and employee data (61%).

Among those that suffered a cyber incident, SMBs experienced a variety of **cyber incidents and **losses****



- The report also found that SMBs across the region were increasing their preparedness for future cyber incidents. About three-quarters of SMBs had increased their investment in cybersecurity since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. They increased their spending on cybersecurity solutions (80%), compliance or monitoring (78%), training (77%), and talent (75%).



Of SMBs increased their investment in cybersecurity since the pandemic began

SMBs were investing in four key areas



Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

China Mobile Tests Unmanned 5G-Enabled Airship to Provide Emergency Communications During Disasters



China Mobile's Unmanned 5G-Enabled Airship

- China Mobile has successfully tested an unmanned 5G-enabled airship in Yunnan. The airship, named “5G Cloud One”, is designed to provide all-weather communication services in support of emergency rescue and disaster relief operations.
- During emergencies and disasters, traditional communication methods may be hampered due to structural damages to communication infrastructure. Problems such as slow data transmission and limited coverage could arise. The airship aims to address these problems by providing emergency communications from the air.
- The airship can cover up to 100 square kilometres and stay in the air for 15-30 days. It was developed by China Mobile, in collaboration with Yunnan Innovation Institute and Huawei.

Regional Terrorism

New Zealand's Fight Against Terrorist and Extremist Content Online

- On 3 Sep 2021, an Islamic State sympathiser attacked shoppers in an Auckland supermarket, wounding seven people. It was reported that the attacker had previously been found to possess Islamic State content and been banned from accessing social media sites.
- The incident puts the spotlight on New Zealand's fight against the radicalising influence of extremist content online. On 15 Mar 2019, a terrorist attack against two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand was broadcast live on social media and viewed a few thousand times before it was removed.
- The attack in 2019 spurred New Zealand to pursue international collaborations to combat extremist content online. In May 2019, New Zealand and France founded the Christchurch Call, a voluntary pledge by governments and technology platform partners to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.

CHRISTCHURCH CALL

TO ELIMINATE TERRORIST
& VIOLENT EXTREMIST
CONTENT ONLINE

Jihadist Reactions to the 20th Anniversary of 9/11

- Last month, pro-Al Qaeda (AQ) and pro-Islamic State (IS) media units had released multiple publications around the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.
- Pro-AQ media units embarked on an organised media campaign comprising speeches, posters, designed hashtags, and a documentary to commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Some of the material encouraged supporters to emulate the example of the hijackers in 2001.
- In the same period, pro-IS elements used social media to denounce the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan and to threaten further attacks following the Kabul attacks by IS-Khorasan. More recently, IS-Khorasan released a statement on Telegram that it conducted the suicide bomb attack that killed at least 55 people at a mosque in Kunduz, Afghanistan on 8 Oct 2021.
- Many jihadist groups, including AQ and IS, continue to use Telegram as a means of disseminating information. Ahead of the 9/11 anniversary this year, Telegram has taken steps to delete Telegram channels, groups and bots dedicated to supporting pro-AQ and pro-IS social media campaigns.



The Tribute in Light, an art installation created in remembrance of the 9/11 attacks

Maritime Security

Port of Houston Repels Cyberattack

- In August this year, the Port of Houston “successfully defended itself” against a cyberattack. The port said that no operational data or systems were impacted in the attack.
- According to the US Coast Guard Cyber Command report of the incident, the unidentified hackers broke into a web server using a previously unidentified vulnerability in the password management software. Thereafter, the hackers planted malicious code on the server and stole log-in credentials.
- Fortunately, the Coast Guard cybersecurity staff at the port quickly isolated access to the hacked server and cut off access to the network.
- The report said that if the compromise had not been detected, the hackers would have had “numerous options” to deliver further effects that could impact port operations.



Port of Houston

Annex

Sources

Information and Cybersecurity

- Growing Fear Among Asia-Pacific Businesses about Cyber Threats
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 - All figures designed by ACICE

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

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