

THE TOP CYBER SECURITY THREATS OF 2017

THREATS OF 2017

In a world driven by technology, cyber security is an all-important issue.

For business organizations, **54%** of cyber security professionals anticipate a successful data breach in the next 12 months.^[1]



The average total cost of a data breach is **\$3.62 million** -- and it threatens industries such as healthcare, retail, technology, and finance.^[2]

Here is a closer look at the top cyber security threats in 2017:

MOBILE SECURITY

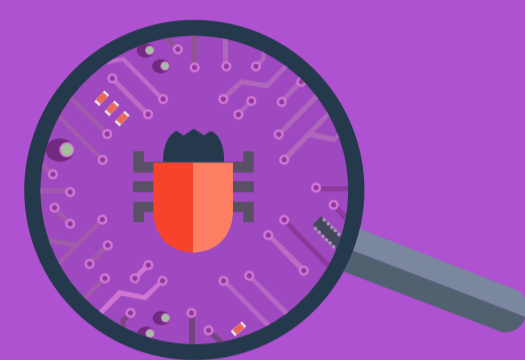
37 MILLION pieces of malware are detected in over **150 MILLION** apps.^[3]

Some of the countries with the most infections include India, Brazil, Spain, Russia, and the United States.

While some smartphone hacks cause minor inconveniences to users, they may also have major implications to a person or business, especially when mobile banking apps are targeted.

40% OF BANKING APPS HAVE WEAK AUTHENTICATION PROTOCOLS.^[4]

Aside from the risk of having your smartphone stolen, unstable and unsecure apps may also introduce attack vectors that leave sensitive data vulnerable to hackers.



CLOUD SECURITY

93% of organizations use cloud services, making cloud technology the focal point of cyber security. More & more companies are also transitioning from private to public cloud services.^[5]

52% There is currently a likelihood of getting malware from cloud-based, SaaS applications.^[6]

Some of the biggest threats in public cloud services include **hijacked accounts, unsecure APIs, and the unauthorized, external sharing of data.**



65% of IT professionals say, **Shadow IT (IT-related systems that are being implemented in the organization without the consent of IT departments)** compromises cloud security and therefore needs to be addressed.^[6]

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

OVER THE LAST DECADE Hackers have grown craftier in conducting data theft.

In spite of advancements in security technology, many forms of digital communication are susceptible to vulnerabilities.

While **phishing scams** are one of the oldest hacking tricks in the book, **80,000** users still fall victim to them each day.^[7]



Giving away sensitive information such as credit card numbers, corporate network passwords, and banking information.

The Signaling System Seven or SS7, which is being used by all cellphones for cross-network communications, is known to have major flaws that enable hackers to tap into phone conversations.^[8]

THE INTERNET OF THINGS

As the internet connects more digital devices, businesses and homeowners face more threats to safety and security.

IoT devices accounted for some of the biggest DDoS attacks in 2016.

For example, **OVH** (hosting sustained a massive, **1-Tbps** (one terabit per second) attack.^[9]

An average IoT device can be hacked after connecting for only **6 minutes.**^[10]

WHAT FUTURE CYBER SECURITY PROFESSIONALS NEED

For aspiring cyber security professionals, below are the top skills you need to prepare for the cyber security challenges of tomorrow.^[11]



- 32%** Application Security
- 33%** Security Analysis & Investigation
- 20%** Penetration Testing
- 22%** Cloud Security
- 21%** Security Engineering

Data breaches are all too common, and cyber attacks are costing companies more and more each year. Cyber security specialists are the front line of defense in 2017.



<http://online.maryville.edu/cyber-security/bachelors/>

SOURCES:

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- [3] <https://www.mcafee.com/us/resources/reports/rp-mobile-threat-report-2016.pdf>
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- [6] <https://pages.cloudpassage.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/nfrgrphcs/nfrgrphcs-2012-10-11-en.aspx>
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