

2015 Cyberthreat Defense Report

Executive Summary

A CyberEdge Group Report

Platinum sponsor:



Survey Demographics

- 814 qualified IT security decision makers and practitioners
- All from organizations with more than 500 employees
- Representing 7 countries in North America and Europe
- Representing 19 industries

“Client devices of all types – but especially mobile devices – present the greatest security challenge to organizations.”

CyberEdge Group’s second annual Cyberthreat Defense Report provides a penetrating look at how IT security professionals perceive cyberthreats and plan to defend against them. Based on a survey of more than 800 IT security decision makers and practitioners conducted in December 2014, the report delivers countless insights IT security teams can use to better understand how their perceptions, priorities, and security postures stack up against those of their peers.

Notable Findings

- **Sinking expectations.** More than half (52%) of respondents expect their organization to be compromised by a successful cyberattack in 2015, up from 39% the prior year.
- **Web applications under siege.** Attacks against their organization’s web properties are among the top cyberthreats that concern today’s IT security professionals.
- **Concerns about mobile devices.** When rating their organization’s ability to defend against cyberthreats across various IT domains, respondents gave mobile devices the lowest marks, followed by laptops and social media applications.
- **Low confidence in endpoint defenses.** More than two-thirds of responding organizations are looking to replace or augment their current endpoint protection tools.
- **SDN to benefit security.** Just shy of two-thirds (63%) of respondents believe software-defined networking (SDN) has a positive impact on the ability to defend against cyberthreats.

Web Applications in the Crosshairs

Web applications, which are pervasive within today’s organizations, are a target of choice for threat actors for many reasons, not the least of which is their high likelihood of including vulnerabilities and serving as a direct conduit to sensitive data. It is not surprising, therefore, that web application attacks are among the top cyberthreats concerning security professionals (see Figure 1), who remain far from confident about their organization’s security posture in this area (see Figure 2).

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being highest, rate your overall concern for each of the following types of cyberthreats targeting your organization. (n=793)

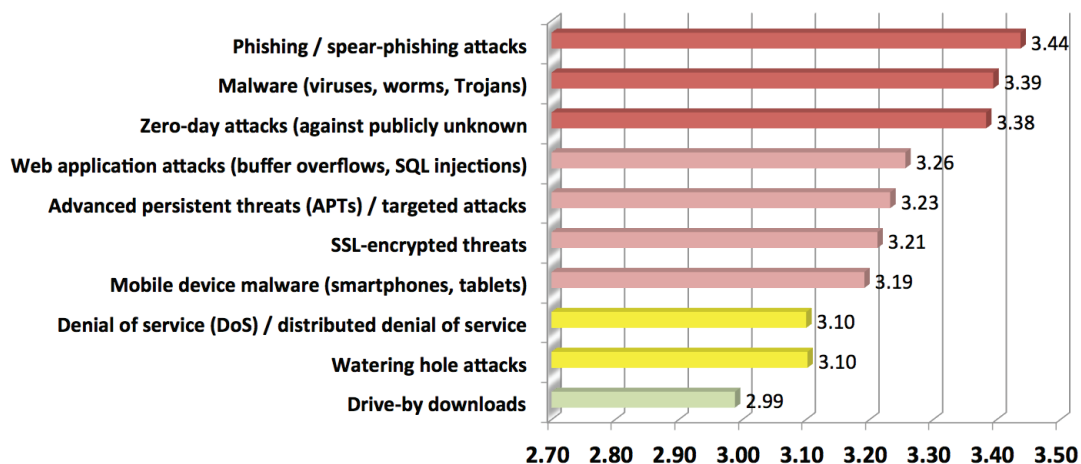


Figure 1: Relative concern by type of cyberthreat

Mobile Concerns

Respondents identified mobile devices as the IT domain where their cyberthreat defenses are currently weakest – with laptops and desktops not far behind (see Figure 2). They also indicated implementation of bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policies will nearly double – from 30% of surveyed organizations today to 59% within a year. These findings clearly point to the need for further investments in mobile security, while also suggesting that considerable opportunities remain for vendors to deliver innovative solutions to the challenges presented by mobile workstyles.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being highest, rate your organization's overall security posture (ability to defend cyberthreats) in each of the following areas: (n=801)

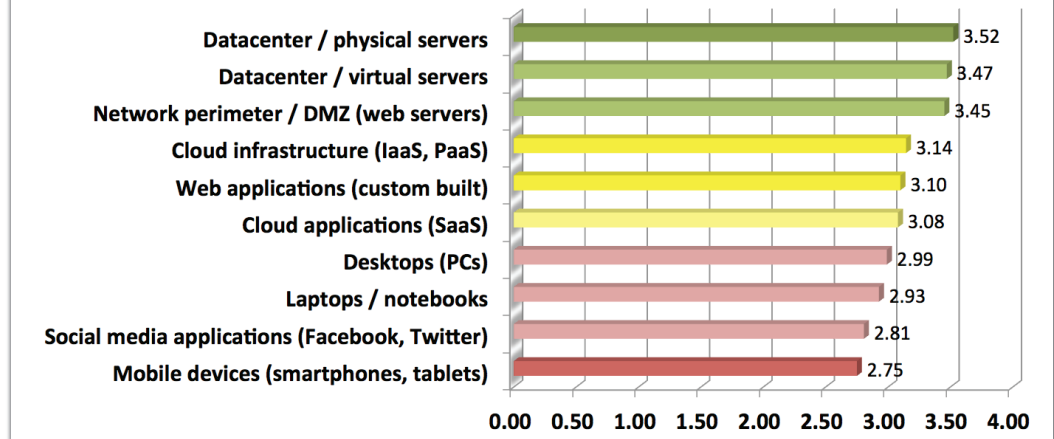


Figure 2: Perceived security posture by IT domain

The SDN Effect

The potential of software-defined networking to mitigate the onslaught of cyberthreats – for example, by enabling micro-segmentation and allowing integrated countermeasures to be “piped in” to a communications path regardless of their physical location – is not lost on today’s IT security professionals. When asked how SDN impacts their organization’s ability to defend against cyberthreats, respondents who are convinced it makes a positive contribution far outnumbered those who believe it has a negative effect (by more than 10 to 1).

The Road Ahead

IT security teams must ensure their organization’s defenses keep pace with changes to both the computing environment and the threats acting against it. The good news, at least for 62% of our survey respondents, is that their IT security budgets are expected to increase in 2015. When it comes to investing this windfall, some areas to keep an eye on include:

- Next-generation defenses for both endpoint and mobile devices;
- Rapidly evolving cyberthreat intelligence services; and
- Software-defined security solutions (with their excellent potential for increased automation and effectiveness).

Complimentary Report

To obtain a complimentary copy of the full 2015 Cyberthreat Defense Report, connect to: www.bit.do/2015-cdr.

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