Kaspersky Lab counts up this year's cyber threats

In 2014 Kaspersky Lab experts saw considerable growth in the number of malicious attacks on user computers and mobile devices, further development of financial malware and a change in the vectors of web attacks.

Image: www.freedigitalphotos.net

Based on the company's statistics, 2014 in figures looks the following way:

- Every day Kaspersky Lab's Anti-Malware Research team processes 325,000 new malicious files. That is up 10,000 a day compared with last year - and 125,000 a day more than in 2012.
- 6.2 billon malicious attacks on user computers and mobile devices were blocked by Kaspersky Lab antivirus products in 2014, one billion more than in 2013.
- 38% of user computers were subjected to at least one web attack over the year.
- 44% of web attacks neutralised by Kaspersky Lab products were carried out using malicious web resources located in the US (27.5% of all attacks) and Germany (16.6%). The Netherlands (13.4%) came 3rd.
- Attempts to steal money via online access to bank accounts were blocked on almost 2,000,000 user computers.
- Kaspersky Lab products protected their users from an average of 3.9 million Internet-based attacks a day.
- Kaspersky Lab's web antivirus detected over 123,000,000 unique malicious objects: 74% of them were found at malicious URLs.
- A total of 3.7 million attempts to infect OS X- based computers were blocked by Kaspersky Lab products.
- An average Mac user encountered 9 threats during the year.
- Kaspersky Lab solutions blocked 1.4 million attacks on Android-based devices, four times as many as last year.

Mobile threats:

- 295,500 new mobile malicious programmes, 2.8 times as many as in 2013.
- 12,100 mobile banking Trojans, 9 times as many as last year.
- 53% of attacks involved mobile Trojans targeting users' money (SMS-Trojans, banking Trojans).
- 19% of Android users (one in five) encountered a mobile threat at least once over the year.
- Mobile malware attacks were registered in more than 200 countries worldwide.

"2011 was the year of mobile malware formation, especially on Android-based devices; 2012 was when they developed and 2013 was when they reached maturity. In 2014 mobile malware focused on financial issues: the number of mobile banking Trojans was nine times greater than in the previous year and development in this area is continuing at an alarming rate," said Roman Unuchek, Senior Mobile Malware Analyst at Kaspersky Lab.

Financial threats

The fraudsters who specialise in mobile financial malware are probably inspired by their experienced "colleagues" who have been stealing money via personal computers for years. Zeus remains the most widespread banking Trojan with ChePro and Lohmys coming second and third. Three quarters of attacks targeting users' money were carried out using

banking malware but these are not the only financial threats. Bitcoin wallet theft was the second most popular banking threat (14%). Bitcoin mining software (10%) is another threat related to the crypto currency. It uses computing resources to generate bitcoins.

Maria Garnaeva, Security Expert at Kaspersky Lab's Global Research and Analysis Team, said: "One of the most effective ways to deliver malware to user computers is to exploit vulnerabilities in Oracle Java and in browsers such as Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, etc. In addition, cybercriminals continue to use exploits for Adobe Reader vulnerabilities. These infection techniques remain popular simply because social engineering techniques are still effective. Each year we see how cybercriminals are creating more inventive ways of luring in their victims. That is why recipients are still willing to read a seemingly harmless e-mail from an unexpected source and then open attachments or follow links that expose them to malicious programmes."

The full report is available on securelist.com

For more, visit: https://www.bizcommunity.com