WELLS FARGO

Cyber wars

Trends and recent attacks

The more technology evolves, the more sophisticated the cyber attacks on corporations, government agencies, hospitals, and national interests. Here's what we've learned about trends in cyber warfare, and a list of recent serious attacks.

Trends in cyber attacks

Ransomware
Digital version of extortion: Malware that prevents computer or network use until ransom is paid, usually in bitcoin.

Bots and botnets
Bot: Malware that takes control of an infected computer.
Botnet: Network of infected machines. They want personal information, credit card numbers, bank credentials, and ransom.

Attacks on third parties
Infiltrations as entry points to larger companies and entities.

Nation-state threats
Cyber attacks against states and societies. Goals: Political destabilization, cyber espionage, monetary gain.

Attacks on the Internet of Things (IoT)
Connected homes, offices, hospitals, and governments susceptible to mounting threats. Industries targeted include energy, utilities, healthcare, and finance.

Hactivism
"Hacking for a cause" to promote political or social agenda. Well-known hactivists: WikiLeaks, Anonymous, Xbox Underground, and RedHack.

Data records across industries lost or stolen since 2013[1]

14,644,949,623

Frequency of data records lost or stolen[1]

290,713 every hour

4,845 every minute

2017–2018 large cyber attacks

March 2017 — **WikiLeaks CIA Vault7**
8,761 documents[2] allegedly stolen from the CIA, with documentation of alleged spying operations.

May 2017 — **WannaCry**
Ransomware crippled corporations, hospitals, and public utilities in at least **150** countries.

June 2017 — **Petya, NotPetya**
Microsoft PCs infected in more than **65** countries.

July 2017 — **Equifax cyber attack**
Incident affected about **147.9** million U.S. consumers. Data compromised includes Social Security and driver's license numbers.

May 2018 — **VPNFilter malware**
Hundreds of thousands of home and office routers and other networked devices worldwide compromised.[3]

Sept 2018 — **Facebook cyber attack**
Facebook announced account-access tokens of at least **50** million users had been stolen.

Data sources:

1. Breach Level Index, http://www.breachlevelindex.com/, Gemalto, as of Oct. 1, 2018.
2. "The biggest cybersecurity disasters of 2017 so far," Wired.com, July 1, 2017.
3. FBI, Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), May 25, 2018.