

Malware on the go!

How many mobile malware detections happen each year?



Number of malware families: 299

Source <https://www.symantec.com/security-center/threat-report>



The Rise of Mobile Banking Trojans

Perhaps the biggest threat to mobile users is that of banking trojans. How do they work? By impersonating banking apps and waiting for you to input your login credentials. They can also read your text messages, which means they can bypass two-factor authentication and gain access to your bank account.

Sounds crazy, right? What's crazier is that, in 2016, anti-virus company Kaspersky found that 305,543 users in 164 countries were attacked by mobile banking Trojans compared to 56,194 users in 137 countries in 2015.

How do you avoid them? First, consider not installing any banking apps on your mobile device unless absolutely necessary. At the very least, do your research to make sure you download a legitimate app and keep it updated!

Source: https://securelist.com/files/2017/02/Mobile_report_2016.pdf

RANSOMWARE IS EVERYWHERE!

In addition to the rise in banking Trojans, Kaspersky reports there were 261,214 installation packages of ransomware on mobile devices in 2016—8.5 times more than in 2015. Already, in the first quarter of this year, mobile ransomware attacks are up 250%.

Source: <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/report-mobile-ransomware-attacks-soared-in-2017-up-250-in-q1/>

HOW DOES RANSOMWARE WORK?

Unlike standard computer ransomware, the mobile version doesn't encrypt files. Instead, it acts as a "blocker" by making all apps and system settings on a smartphone inaccessible. Imagine your device being stuck on one screen. It becomes unusable. And since most devices don't have removable memory, there is no way to bypass the locked screen without paying a ransom.

5 Ways to Get Malware On Your Smartphone

1. Download apps from anywhere without verifying the source.
2. Click on random links sent to you via text message.
3. Turn off your VPN and jump on a public WiFi network.
4. Don't bother updating software or firmware.
5. Ignore permissions requested by apps.

Now, if you want to AVOID malware, do the opposite of these things. Be especially careful when installing apps. And while it's true that Android users are a bigger target than iOS users, everyone is still at risk!

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HOW DO YOU AVOID RANSOMWARE?

The same way you avoid all malware. Research apps before downloading. Only download from verified sources. Keep your devices up to date. Run antivirus/anti-malware scans often. And think before you click!

Good security comes from timely response. Report security incidents immediately!