

ALL NETS HAVE HOLES



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90% OF VERIFIED PHISHING EMAILS WERE FOUND IN ENVIRONMENTS USING SECURE EMAIL GATEWAYS (SEGS)

This key finding¹ in the Cofense™ Phishing Threat & Malware Review 2019 is based on research by the Cofense Phishing Defense Center™. From October 2018 to March 2019, our team verified over 31,000 malicious emails reported by customers' users. This data is augmented below by findings from the Cofense Research and Cofense Intelligence™ teams.

WHAT PHISHING THREATS ARE SQUIRMING PAST PERIMETER TECHNOLOGY?

CREDENTIAL PHISH



The onslaught of credential phishing shows no signs of letting up. Threat actors are seeking network credentials, the keys to the enterprise kingdom.



Of verified phish were credential phish

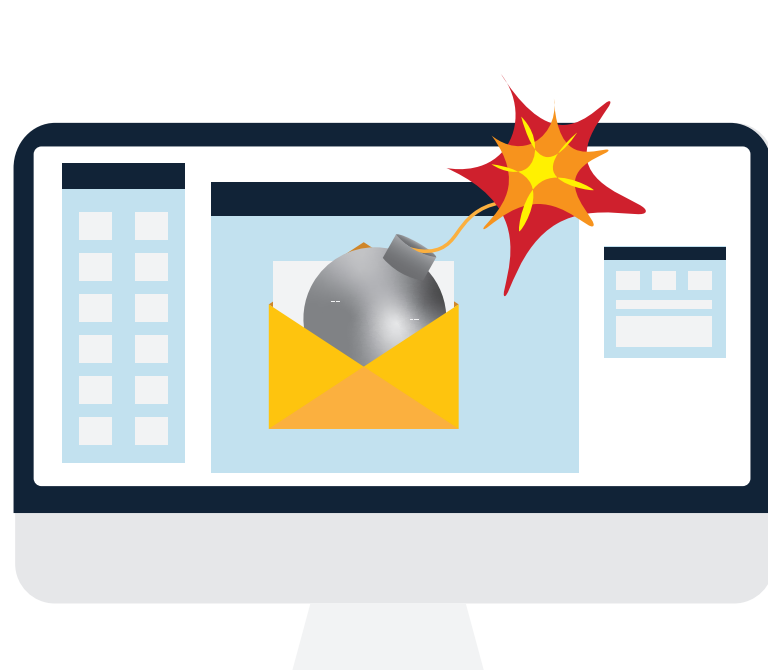


Of credential phishing attacks were found in environments with one or more SEGs



Distinct credential phishing URL's have been identified in the wild since Q1 2018

Source: Cofense Research



Verified phishing emails that delivered malware



MALWARE DELIVERY

The game of Whack-A-Mole continues. As soon as anti-malware defenses evolve, threat actors turn on the creativity. New tactics and techniques ensure that malware payloads still reach their targets.

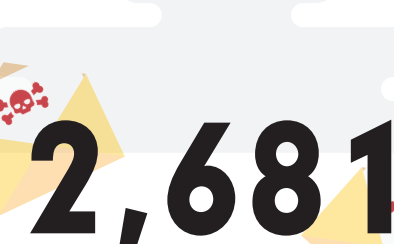


Of phishing attacks delivering malware were found in environments with one or more SEGs

BUSINESS EMAIL COMPROMISE (BEC)



Traditionally a wire transfer scam aimed at CFOs and CEOs, Business Email Compromise has shifted to targeting payroll administrators to reroute direct deposits. BEC occurs less frequently than other attacks, but inflicts billions of dollars in losses.



Verified BEC attacks



In global business losses due to BEC attacks

Source: FBI, Sept 2019



Of BEC attacks were found in environments with one or more SEGs



CLOUD FILESHARING ABUSE

Two Microsoft services, Sharepoint and OneDrive, got roughed up pretty badly. We analyzed over 9,000 phish that abused cloud filesharing services and found:



Of payloads were hosted on Sharepoint



Of payloads were hosted on OneDrive

WHAT ARE WE SEEING IN THE WILD?

EMOTET

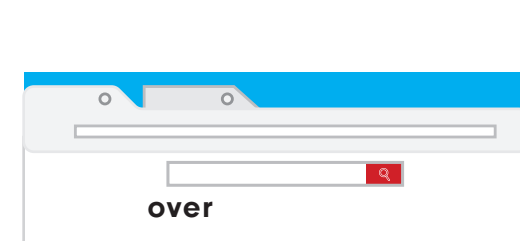


The Emotet botnet is lord and master of the malware landscape. Emotet relies on compromised sites to deliver its payloads.



Unique Emotet malware infections through April 2019

Source: Cofense Research



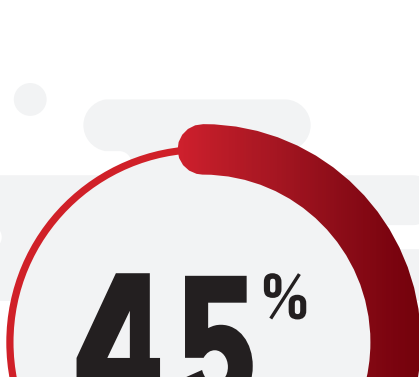
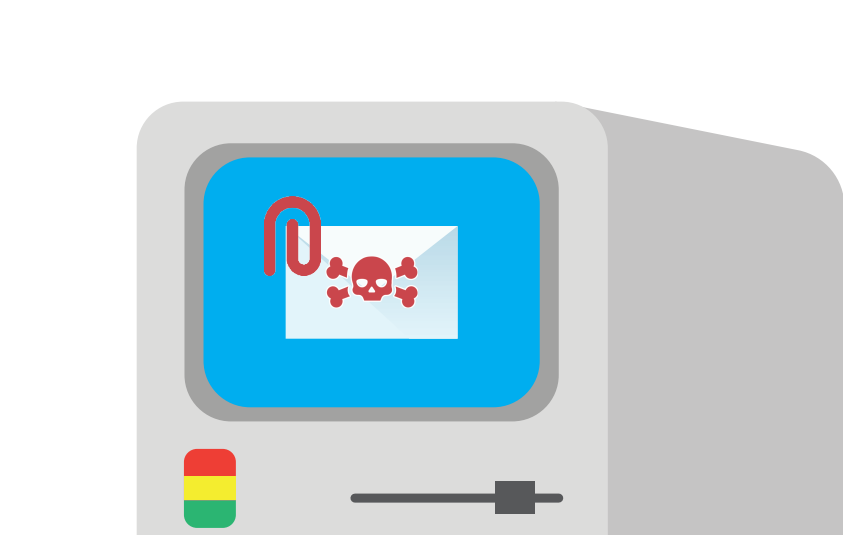
Unique domains used on a single day by the Emotet botnet

Source: Cofense Research



CVE-2017-11882

A geezer as vulnerabilities go (it dates back to 2000), this flaw in Microsoft Equation Editor was heavily exploited to deliver malware via malicious attachments. We expect the danger to ebb as more security teams patch it.

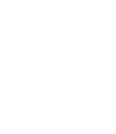


Of all malicious attachments over the last 12 months exploited CVE-2017-11882

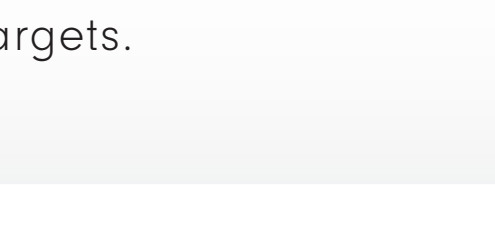


Of all malicious attachments over the last 12 months used malicious macros

RANSOMWARE



And finally, a ray of hope. Ransomware has steadily declined over the last two years. But threat actors still use ransomware against select high-profile targets.



Unique ransomware families delivered in high-volume phishing campaigns

Source: Cofense Intelligence



Of these total campaigns delivered GandCrab ransomware. It's the king crab in a smaller sea.

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Download your copy of our Phishing Threats & Malware Review 2019.

¹ Identified SEG providers included Barracuda, BitDefender, Cisco Ironport, CloudMark, Cyren, Fortinet, Kaspersky, Microsoft Exchange Online Protection, Microsoft Advanced Threat Protection, Mimecast, Proofpoint, Symantec Email Security, and Trend Micro.

Cofense™, formerly known as PhishMe®, is the leading provider of human-driven phishing defense solutions for organizations concerned with their susceptibility to sophisticated cyber attacks. Cofense delivers a collaborative, cooperative approach to cybersecurity by enabling organization-wide response to the most used attack vector—phishing. Cofense serves customers of all sizes across multiple industries including financial services, energy, government, healthcare, technology and manufacturing, as well as other Global 1000 entities that understand how engaging user behavior will improve security, aid incident response and reduce the risk of compromise.

