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12 April, 2012

eScan's latest Malware Report

eScan, one of the leading Anti-Virus & Content Security solution providers has conducted an in-depth research and come-up with a comprehensive report based on malware URLs collected.

The report is a representation of the growing malware trends in the forthcoming months. According to the statics, the total number of recorded malware incidents surged in 2011 with a high record close to 2.5 billion. Cyber crime has become a deadly and silent epidemic across the globe, while majority of the internet users worldwide have fallen victim and they feel extremely powerless against faceless cyber criminals. The most intriguing aspect of today's viruses is that most of them are not being newly created; but in-fact are being re-written or re-coded to a great extent.

Attacks through social networking sites have now risen, being the third most preferred medium of attack. These networking sites have eclipsed web-based email. Moreover, the users' behavior within the social networking circle is different from the behavior on the internet. In addition, the fact is these sites are dominated with innumerable malicious content which includes games and various daily updates. Among Games, personal page or blogs, pornography and entertainment; games tops the list with 48% of reported malware. Social networks are portals that effectively host a variety of content. They have grown beyond the need of individual users. Now, even as widely accepted by businesses, social networking sites can no longer simply be blocked. However, businesses require more granularity and control over the access of these sites to mitigate the risks associated with them.

Today, documents are one of the most common ways through which malware is spread across the Internet. Web pages rank high in terms of hosting malware. Moreover, malware exploit kits serve as an engine for drive-by-downloads. Peer-to-Peer networks have become the key source of malware infection. Internet Explorer is by far the most vulnerable, as with programs that work within browsers such as Adobe Reader and Flash Player. The prevalence of SEO poisoning is also on the rise with 45% of malware writers using search engine as a medium to spread viruses.

Mr. Govind Rammurthy, MD & CEO, eScan said, "A number of low-cost high-impact infection techniques rely on social engineering attacks. Till date it has been a tough task for IT administrators to stop such attacks. Awareness is a key and knowing which documents to download and open will help prevent your machine from being infected. In addition, patching of OS and software is critical. eScan's real time protection not only prevents document-based malware from spreading across your network but also automatically downloads critical OS patches to prevent malware from exploiting vulnerabilities existing in the operating system. "