

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2020 SONICWALL CYBER THREAT REPORT

SonicWall Capture Labs threat research teams work tirelessly to arm organizations, enterprises, governments and businesses with actionable threat intelligence to stay ahead in the global cyber arms race.

The 2020 SonicWall Cyber Threat Report provides critical threat intelligence to help organizations better understand how cybercriminals think. Explore this high-level summary of the full report.

Global Malware Dips, But More Evasive



In 2018, cybercriminals and threat actors began to dial back untargeted salvos in favor of more surgical attacks against “softer” targets.

This approach was even more recognizable in 2019 as total volume waned, but attacks were more evasive with higher degrees of success, particularly against the healthcare industry, and state, provincial and local governments.

SonicWall Capture Labs threat researchers recorded **9.9 billion malware attacks* in 2019** — a slight 6% year-over-year decrease.

Faster Identification of ‘Never-before-Seen’ Malware



Speed and accuracy are critical attributes in identify and mitigating new threats. Based on data from VirusTotal, a market-leading malware repository, SonicWall is identifying never-before-seen malware variants a full **1.9 days before VirusTotal** receives samples.

Advancements in Deep Memory Inspection



In 2019, SonicWall Real-Time Deep Memory Inspection™ (RTDMI) technology discovered **153,909 ‘never-before-seen’ malware variants**. Each year, RTDMI leverages proprietary machine learning capabilities to become extremely efficient at recognizing and mitigating cyberattacks never seen by anyone in the cybersecurity industry.

Cryptojacking Crumbles

78% 



SonicWall reported that total cryptojacking volume hit 52.7 million for the first six months of 2019. Cryptojacking malware finished with **64.1 million total hits in 2019, a 78% drop** since the start of July 2019.

Ransomware Targets State, Provincial & Local Governments



In 2019, there was an increase in ransomware used in targeted attacks toward state, provincial and local governments, as well as large corporations. SonicWall Capture Labs threat researchers recorded **187.9 million in total ransomware volume** for the year, a 6% drop from the record-breaking 2018 volume.

Fileless Malware Spikes in Q3



The use of fileless malware ebbed and flowed in 2019. But exclusive SonicWall data shows a massive spike mid-year for the savvy technique. SonicWall Capture Labs threat researchers found that **fileless malware incidents increased in the second and third quarters** of 2019 when compared to the same period in 2018, but trailed off in the final months.

IoT Malware Volume Rising

34.3 
MILLION



In 2019, SonicWall Capture Labs threat researchers discovered a moderate 5% increase in IoT malware, with **total volume reaching 34.3 million attacks**. But with a deluge of new IoT devices connecting each day, increases in IoT malware attacks should not only be expected, but planned for.

Web App Attacks Double



SonicWall Capture Labs threat researchers recorded a **52% year-over-year increase in web app attacks** in 2019. Large spikes across the final seven months of the year pushed total web app attack volume past 40 million.

© 2020 SonicWall Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SonicWall is a trademark or registered trademark of SonicWall Inc. and/or its affiliates in the U.S.A. and/or other countries. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are property of their respective owners. The information in this document is provided in connection with SonicWall Inc. and/or its affiliates' products. No license, express or implied, by estoppel or otherwise, to any intellectual property right is granted by this document or in connection with the sale of SonicWall products.

1033 McCarthy Boulevard
Milpitas, CA 95035

Refer to our website for additional information.

www.sonicwall.com

* As a best practice, SonicWall routinely optimizes its methodologies for data collection, analysis and reporting. This includes improvements to data cleansing, changes in data sources and consolidation of threat feeds. Figures published in previous reports may have been adjusted across different time periods, regions or industries.

ABOUT SONICWALL

SonicWall has been fighting the cybercriminal industry for over 28 years defending small and medium businesses, enterprises and government agencies worldwide. Backed by research from SonicWall Capture Labs, our award-winning, real-time breach detection and prevention solutions secure more than a million networks, and their emails, applications and data, in over 215 countries and territories. These organizations run more effectively and fear less about security. For more information, visit www.sonicwall.com or follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

www.sonicwall.com



SONICWALL®
CAPTURE LABS