

SYMANTEC INTERNET SECURITY THREAT

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## FOREWORD

As Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), it gives me immense pleasure to present The Internet Security Threat Report (Volume 18) from Symantec. This report for 2012 is one of many such reports that ITU will put forward in order to emphasize the importance of cybersecurity in this era.

On 17 May 2013, through its public-private partnership with Symantec, ITU continues to fight against cyber threats, further strengthening security in the use of ICTs.

ITU's ongoing commitment to publish Symantec security reports aims to appraise Member States of the growing cyber threat, subsequently creating a safer and more secure cyberspace for general consumers, businesses and, most significantly, children and youth at large.

Symantec's ISTR (Volume 18), published in April 2013, provides an overview and analysis of global threat activity for the year 2012 and reveals the ways in which the cybercrime threat landscape is evolving, compiling information from more than 69 million attack sensors in 157 countries around the world.

This year's report shows more targeted attacks, an increasing focus on smaller businesses, and the continued development of new threats.

Other key findings include:

- Cyber-espionage and targeted attacks are on the rise, increasing by 42 percent in 2012
- Spam e-mails are down 29 percent in 2012
- Web-based attacks have increased 30%, making ill protected sites an increasing cybersecurity risk
- The number of zero-day attacks rose from 8 in 2011 to 14 in 2012
- Data breaches are becoming much more serious, with the average breach exposing an average of 8,350 identities compared to 2,400 in 2011

I believe the information presented in this report accurately highlights the present and predicts the future trends in cyber threats.

Thanks to our partnership and common determination, we have managed to raise awareness and control cyber risks to a great extent.

This information lays emphasis on potential cyber threats and areas that have scope for improvement, further facilitating the creation of a more protected and reliable cyberspace.



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Secretary-General, ITU