

MID-YEAR UPDATE

# 2022 SONICWALL CYBER THREAT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SONICWALL®

CYBER THREAT INTELLIGENCE FOR NAVIGATING  
THE UNKNOWN OF TOMORROW

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As world events increasingly shape the cybersecurity landscape, the SonicWall Capture Labs threat research team has been tracking the shifting trends, targets and tactics seen during the first half of 2022. We've compiled our most critical findings in the mid-year update to the 2022 SonicWall Cyber Threat Report, which offers organizations of all sizes the actionable threat intelligence needed to safeguard against an increasingly volatile global threat environment.

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**▲ 11%**

### ***MALWARE REBOUNDS, RISING 11%***

Despite reaching a seven-year low in 2021, malware volume was already beginning to rise in the second half — a trend that has continued into the first half of 2022. Buoyed by increases in both IoT malware and cryptojacking, malware volume reached 2.8 billion so far this year, representing an average of 8,240 attempts per customer.

But while malware was up overall, in areas that already saw a lot of malware, the opposite held true: The U.S., U.K. and Germany saw malware fall 1%, 9% and 13%, respectively. “The international threat landscape is now seeing an active migration that is profoundly changing the challenges not only in Europe, but the United States as well,” said SonicWall expert on emerging threats Immanuel Chavoya.



**▼ 23%**

### ***RANSOMWARE ATTACKS DOWN 23% AS GEO-POLITICAL LANDSCAPE COMPLICATES CYBERCRIMINAL ACTIVITY***

While the past two years have seen a meteoric rise in ransomware, the first half of 2022 brought a long-awaited reversal, as global ransomware volume fell 23% year-to-date. This decrease was largely fueled by lower volume in Q2 — particularly in June, when ransomware volume fell to its lowest point since July 2020.

While North America (which typically experiences the largest share of attacks) saw a 42% decrease in ransomware volume, this was partially offset by a 63% increase in Europe. This suggests that ransomware isn't just falling, it may also be starting to shift course due to factors such as government sanctions, supply-chain deficiencies, a limited availability of needed infrastructure, and increased attention from law enforcement and governing bodies.



**▲ 45%**

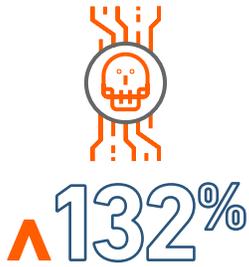
### ***RTDMI™ DETECTIONS RISE DRAMATICALLY***

In the first half of 2022, SonicWall's patented Real-Time Deep Memory Inspection™ (RTDMI) technology discovered 270,228 never-before-seen malware variants — representing a 45% increase over the first half of 2021, and an average of 1,501 new variants per day. RTDMI leverages machine learning to become increasingly efficient at recognizing and mitigating cyberattacks never seen by anyone in the cybersecurity industry: Since its introduction in early 2018, the number of new variants discovered by the technology has risen 2,079%.



### **IoT MALWARE UP 77%**

As the number of IoT devices continues to come online, so does the amount of IoT malware. In the first half of 2022, global attack volume rose 77% to 57 million — the highest since SonicWall began tracking these attacks, and just short of the 60.1 million hits recorded in all of 2021. While the United States already saw more IoT malware than any other country, attacks there rose a staggering 228% through the end of June. Triple-digit increases were also seen in the U.K., where attacks spiked 134%, as well as *across every industry we examined*.



### **ENCRYPTED THREATS SHOWS TRIPLE-DIGIT INCREASE**

Encrypted threats jumped 132% year-to-date, with Q2 showing particularly strong increases: May 2022 was the second-highest month SonicWall has ever recorded for malware over HTTPs. If this trend holds, 2022 could become the third year in a row to see triple-digit increases in encrypted threats. However, there were a few bright spots, such as the retail industry, which saw a 79% drop.



### **CRYPTOJACKING REACHES RECORD HIGH**

Despite a precipitous drop in the price of cryptocurrency, global cryptojacking volume rose to 66.7 million in the first half of 2022 — up 30% over the first half of 2021. This sustained increase has now reached record proportions: Q1 saw more cryptojacking than any quarter since SonicWall began tracking, and January set a new monthly record at 18.4 million. While increases in attack volume were widespread, some were hit harder than others — such as the finance industry, which saw an increase of 269%.

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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 delivers Boundless Cybersecurity for the hyper-distributed era and a work reality where everyone is remote, mobile and unsecure. By knowing the unknown, providing real-time visibility and enabling breakthrough economics, SonicWall closes the cybersecurity business gap for enterprises, governments and SMBs worldwide. For more information, visit [www.sonicwall.com](https://www.sonicwall.com) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



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2022-MidYearThreatReport-ExecSum-JK-6629