SUMMARY: 2024'S MOST SIGNIFICANT CYBERATTACKS

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SUMMARY

The article summarizes the most significant cybersecurity incidents and trends from 2024, highlighting various data breaches, ransomware attacks, and vulnerabilities that emerged throughout the year.

KEY EVENTS

Hacking of the Internet Archive, twice! Access to public domain material was cut-off and personal data stolen, afterward when the site had been pronounced clean and secure, it was taken down again.

Not really an attack, but having the same effect, was a major CrowdStrike update which caused system crashes for millions.

Also not a cyberattack, but a cyber security concern, was the ban on Kaspersky antivirus software in the U.S. Forcing millions to pay for replacing their security software protection due to geopolitical posturing.

2024 saw an alarming rise of information-stealing malware and the ongoing threat posed by state-sponsored hackers, particularly from Russia and North Korea.

Overall, the year was characterized by high-profile cyberattacks affecting various sectors, including healthcare and telecommunications, prompting heightened concerns over cybersecurity measures.

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KEY INSIGHTS

- The Internet Archive suffered a dual attack involving a data breach and a DDoS attack, exposing personal data of 33 million users.
- A faulty CrowdStrike update led to system crashes for 8.5 million Windows devices, causing widespread disruptions across multiple industries.
- The Biden administration's ban on Kaspersky antivirus software resulted in forced replacements with UltraAV, creating backlash among users.
- Cyberattacks targeting edge networking devices increased significantly, revealing vulnerabilities in essential infrastructure.
- The year saw a surge in infostealer malware campaigns, contributing to significant financial losses and data breaches across various sectors.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What were the major cybersecurity incidents in 2024?

2024 was marked by significant incidents such as the Internet Archive hack, CrowdStrike update failures, and widespread data breaches involving millions of users' personal information.

How did the CrowdStrike update affect users?

The faulty update caused crashes in approximately 8.5 million Windows systems, leading to disruptions in businesses worldwide, including financial institutions and hospitals.

What implications did Kaspersky's ban have on users in the U.S.?

The ban forced users to transition to UltraAV antivirus software, which was installed without user consent, leading to dissatisfaction and confusion among many customers.

Why are edge networking devices becoming prime targets for cyberattacks?

These devices are often exposed to the internet and, once compromised, provide attackers with easy access to internal networks, making them attractive targets for cybercriminals.

Book time for a discussion: https://tinyurl.com/3ctdrzsj

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