

2011 A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR MALWARE

OUR RESEARCHERS SCANNED **1 MILLION** MOBILE APPLICATIONS AND **1 BILLION** URLS IN 2011

HERE'S WHAT WE FOUND:

THE NUMBER OF MALICIOUS APPS AND URLS REACHED AN ALL-TIME HIGH IN 2011 AND MALWARE METHODS BECAME MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN EVER.

1 + 2

A **RAMPANT INCREASE** IN THE NUMBER OF MALICIOUS SMARTPHONE APPS AND RELATED WEBSITES

THE **RISE IN COMPLEXITY AND SOPHISTICATION** IN MOBILE ATTACK METHODS

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MORE **INFECTED** DEVICES THAN EVER

IT'S ALL ABOUT ANDROID

AS ANDROID DEVICES BECAME MORE POPULAR, THE MONTHLY MALWARE FOUND ON ANDROID DEVICES SKYROCKETED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF SYMBIAN MALWARE THREATS STEADILY DECLINED.

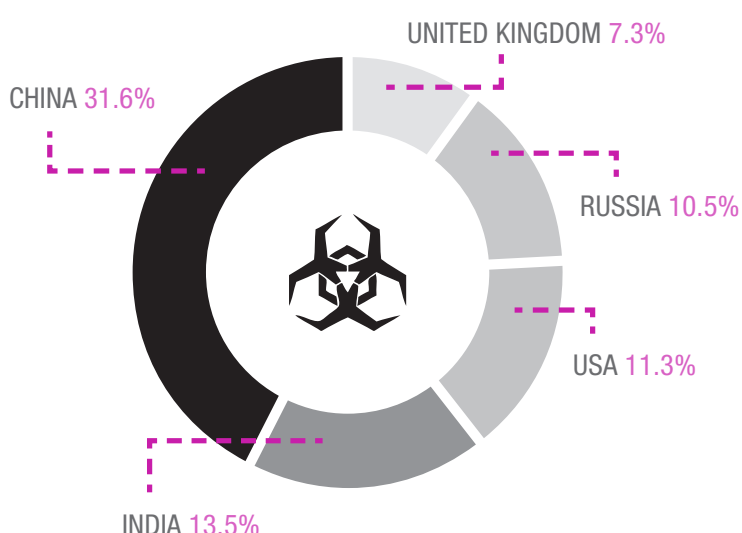


WHY IS THIS?

IT'S A POPULARITY CONTEST MALWARE AUTHORS TARGET THE MOBILE PLATFORMS WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF USERS. ANDROID WAS THE BIGGEST TARGET IN 2011, DRAMATICALLY OUTPACING SYMBIAN.

ANDROID MALWARE: WENT FROM LESS THAN 500 SAMPLES IN JANUARY 2011 TO MORE THAN 9,900 IN DECEMBER 2011 (A 1880% INCREASE.)

BY THE END OF 2011, THERE WERE MORE THAN 10.8 MILLION ANDROID DEVICES INFECTED AROUND THE WORLD. IN TERMS OF THEIR GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION, THE TOP FIVE INFECTED COUNTRIES WERE:



ANDROID



SYMBIAN

HOW ARE SCAMMERS INFECTING PHONES?

WE STUDIED **1,000 PIECES** OF ANDROID MALWARE TO FIND THE TOP WAYS MALWARE AUTHORS ARE GETTING TO YOUR PHONES:

PIGGYBACKING: SCAMMERS HIDE MALWARE IN POPULAR MOBILE APPS (LIKE ANGRY BIRDS) AND REPACKAGE THEM FOR DOWNLOAD ON OFFICIAL AND ALTERNATIVE MARKETS. BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS WHEN DOWNLOADING GAMING, UTILITY, AND PORN-RELATED APPS.

MOBILE BOTNETS: WE'RE SEEING TELL-TALE SIGNS THAT BOTNETS WILL MAKE A DRAMATIC ENTRANCE INTO THE MOBILE WORLD THIS YEAR, ALLOWING SCAMMERS TO TURN MILLIONS OF SMARTPHONES INTO ZOMBIE DEVICES THAT SPREAD MALWARE.

DRIVE-BY DOWNLOADS: SCAMMERS SET UP FRAUDULENT WEB PAGES, WHICH START AUTOMATIC APP DOWNLOADS WHEN USERS VISIT THEM OR ARE REDIRECTED TO THEM (OFTEN VIA MALICIOUS QR CODES).

PREDICTIONS FOR 2012

- 1.** MALWARE AUTHORS WILL CHASE THE MONEY—EXPECT **EVEN MORE** SOPHISTICATED SCAMS, INVOLVING SMS FRAUD, MOBILE BOTNETS, AND PERSONAL DATA COLLECTION
- 2.** MOBILE ROOTKITS ARE EXPECTED TO **EMERGE**
- 3.** MALVERTISING AND MOBILE PAYMENTS WILL BE **MORE PREVALENT** THAN EVER
- 4.** EDUCATION ABOUT MOBILE SECURITY WILL BE **CRITICAL** TO FIGHTING MOBILE FRAUD

FOR MORE INFO ON MOBILE SECURITY AND TO DOWNLOAD OUR FULL REPORT, VISIT WWW.NQ.COM



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