

Skyrocketing Cybercrime Threatens Economic and National Security

IT professionals needed to outsmart terrorists, hackers and other predators.



Article 6 Viruses Cybersecurity Programs Which cybersecurity program can jumpstart your career? [Learn More](#)

By USNewsUniversityDirectory.com

In July 2011, the Department of Defense disclosed one of its most devastating data breaches. It occurred in March 2011 when foreign hackers infiltrated the network of a defense contractor and stole 24,000 military files in a single intrusion.

In another sophisticated attack on the financial sector, an international network of hackers obtained access to a financial corporation's network and completely compromised its encryption.

"They were inside the system for months doing reconnaissance, which enabled them to steal millions of dollars in less than 24 hours, when they finally took overt action," said Shawn Henry, Executive Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, at last year's Information Systems Security Association International Conference.

Read about the 6 MOST DESTRUCTIVE COMPUTER VIRUSES to date



As we rely more and more on technology to manage our daily lives, the threat of cybercrime continues to grow in America and around the world. The global cost of cybercrime is nearly \$400 billion a year, with more than one million victims of cybercrime every day, according to the 2011 Norton Cybercrime Report.

According to Henry, the three primary cyber crime players are foreign intelligence services, terrorist groups and organized crime enterprises.

"We've got hackers out to take our personal information and money, spies who want to steal our nation's secrets, and terrorists who are looking for novel ways to attack our critical infrastructure," he said. A major cyber attack could potentially wipe out entire companies, he said. It could shut down our nation's electric grid or water supply and cause serious damage to parts of our cities—ultimately even killing people.

President Barack Obama recently addressed the growing concern of cybercrime stating, "This cyber threat is one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face as a nation." He went on to add, "America's economic prosperity in the 21st century will depend on cybersecurity."

Which cybersecurity program can jumpstart your career?



YES! I'd like to learn more about a career in cybersecurity.

Step 1 of 3

*Indicates required field.

* Type of Program Interested In:

* Highest Level of Education:

Next

Combat Cybercrime With Cybersecurity Credentials From a Leading University!

University Alliance connects you with courses and credentials to help you train to fight cybercrime. Each program is designed to give you the expertise you need to have an edge in the booming cybersecurity job market.

Cybersecurity credentials can lead you to high-level cybersecurity management, specialist and analyst positions. Educational programs teach prospective cybersecurity professionals to assess risks and safeguard corporate data. Students learn to evaluate security levels within an enterprise and make improvements to protect information systems. They also gain critical thinking and decision making skills to combat attacks on computer infrastructures and remedy unanticipated casualties.

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The 6 Most Destructive Computer Viruses.

6 Viruses

According to a recent survey by Norton (Symantec Corporation), computer viruses/malware made up 56% of all of the cybercrime in the United States in 2011 – far more than online credit card fraud or phishing. Here is a glimpse at the six most destructive computer viruses of the past – which today's cybersecurity experts are trained to prevent – and the impact they had on those infected.



October 2001: Klez

The Klez virus was a pioneer for its time. It infected computers via an email message that – for the first time – appeared to originate from someone in the receiver's address book and carried code that rendered the computer inoperable. Once the virus infected a machine, it would search for other email addresses to send itself to. Because people were more likely to open an email they thought was coming from a trusted source, the virus spread around the globe in very short time. Klez prevented start-up and rendered programs useless.

January 2003:SQL Slammer/Sapphire

As a computer worm that targeted large organizations including Bank of America and Continental Airlines, Sapphire achieved worldwide epidemic status, estimated to have caused over \$1 billion in damage to transportation, financial and government agencies. It was also known for its speed – reportedly doubling its number of victims every few seconds. In fact, 15 minutes from the time of its first attack, nearly half the Internet's web servers were affected. Internet traffic slowed as the worm initiated denial of service (DoS) attacks across the world.

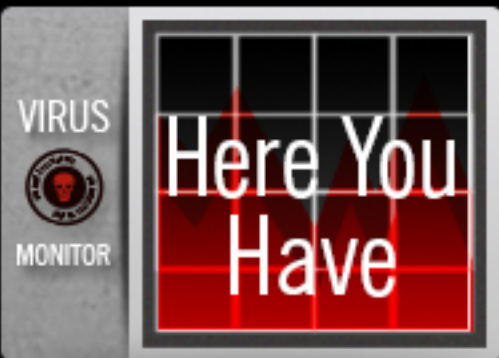


January 2004: MyDoom

After appearing in millions of email inboxes, MyDoom was considered the fastest growing virus ever spread on the web. It propagated by spoofing email addresses and was delivered as an email delivery failure with subject lines like "Mail Transaction Failed" or "Mail Delivery System." Naturally, people opened the alert to investigate, and the virus would then infect their computers, and in some cases, give outsiders control of their machine. It would also block access to Microsoft sites and popular antivirus sites.

January 2007: Storm Worm

Delivered via email, this virus tempted people to click on an attachment with a tantalizing subject line that read, "230 dead as storm batters Europe." Instead of a news story, they received a nasty Trojan horse which injected one or more viruses at a time. Once infected, the computer became part of a network that could be controlled remotely and used to launch massive denial of service (DoS) attacks capable of bringing down entire small countries.



September 2010: Here You Have

This computer worm successfully attacked email accounts around the world, including those at major corporations like Disney, Google, Coca-Cola and NASA. When an email with the subject line "Here you have" arrived in inboxes, unsuspecting users clicked on a link that appeared to be a PDF file, causing malware to download and send a similar email to the user's entire address book. This attack – that attempted to disable antivirus protection – was reportedly infectious enough to cause many employees to discard their e-mail accounts altogether.

May 2012: Flame

Arguably the most complex malware ever discovered, Flame – as known as Flamer, sKyWlper, and Skywiper – was used for targeted cyber espionage in Middle Eastern countries. It recorded audio, screenshots, keyboard activity, network traffic and even Skype conversations, and attempted to download contact information from nearby Bluetooth-enabled devices. As of May 2012, about 1,000 machines belonging to governmental organizations, educational institutions and private individuals have been infected.



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6 Viruses

Cybersecurity Programs

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Is a Career in Cybersecurity for You?

While the threat of cyber attacks is very real, so are the opportunities within the growing field of cybersecurity. From entry-level positions all the way up to executive positions, companies around the world are in need of skilled cybersecurity professionals. With quality education, training and experience, cybersecurity professionals can establish and maintain the security of sensitive data, maintaining confidentiality and helping to ensure overall profitability. If you've ever considered a career in cybersecurity, now is a great time to learn more about this blossoming industry.

Which Cybersecurity Program Can Jumpstart Your Career?

Master of Science in
Information Assurance and
Cybersecurity

Master of Science in
Information Technology With
a Specialization in
Cybersecurity

Master Certificate in
Information Systems
Security

Master Certificate in
Information Security
Management

Master Certificate in
Information Security
Management – Government

For-Credit Graduate
Certificate in Information
Assurance and
Cybersecurity

Other Programs You May Be
Interested In

Ideal Candidates

Professionals with technical backgrounds who want to become highly trained experts and position themselves for more prominent specialist positions and leadership roles.

What You'll Learn

- › Recognize threats, vulnerabilities and different security architectures.
- › Analyze attack models, forensics and operations processes.
- › Evaluate operating system security mechanisms, and identify secure and unsecure features.
- › Understand the communications model and communications encryption.
- › Analyze biometric technology and surrounding privacy and legal issues.
- › Lead an organization in adopting new technology, implementing security strategies and protecting assets against attack.

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