Stories from the field

For this State of the Internet (SOTI) report, we move away from the typical end-of-year review in which we discuss each of the previous reports we published this year, and instead focus on this central theme: What is your favorite security story of the year? We asked the writers and a data scientist in Akamai's Security Intelligence Group (SIG) to do a year-end evaluation of any story that we covered in the last 10 months. It must have been challenging for them to choose only one of the many notable stories and new discoveries that we released on our security research blog and in the SOTI reports in 2023. We also asked our Advisory CISO and a Vice President of our Security Operations Command Centers (SOCCs) to weigh in on this year's attack trends and the key learnings we can take into 2024.

A lot has happened this year in the world of security and within Akamai security research. The research contributions of our security experts are undeniably invaluable to the community. Through our dedicated hub, security professionals can easily access trusted resources containing insights, mitigation strategies, and attack trends that can aid them in defending their organizations. They can also access free tools, like our RPC Toolkit, as well as our free and open source adversary emulation platform, the Infection Monkey. Acting just like malware, the Infection Monkey propagates and "encrypts" files that it can access by flipping the bits — giving a practitioner a realistic view of how an attacker could (or couldn't) move around in that environment. The speed in which threats are evolving makes continuous testing necessary. Practitioners need to know where their network stands today, not just where it stood during the last pen test.

If a word can capture what the landscape looked like in 2023, that word would be *pivot*. Attackers shifted their tactics to circumvent security measures, looking for novel attack surfaces and untapped targets to wreak havoc on organizations of all sizes and industries. The same could be said for security defenders who continue to recalibrate and learn new ways to mitigate attacks and protect organizations better. We pivot through solutions, research, and tools with this goal: Provide actionable insights and mitigation strategies to security practitioners who fight the same security threats as we do.

Happy reading!

Favorite security stories

2023 Attack trends

2024 Looking ahead