

Alertsec Survey: Americans Fear Russian Hackers

Alertsec's 2016 Security Breach Study reveals that 2016 hacks changed security practices and that Americans worry about Russian hackers

Palo Alto, CA, December 1, 2016 – Alertsec, the cloud-based encryption company, today released findings from its 2016 Security Breach Study. The study, fielded to more than 1,000 American adults, determined that this year's Yahoo! hack affected consumers enough to change their security habits. It also revealed that when it comes to security breaches, Americans worry most about Russians, Anonymous and "petty thieves."

2016 data breaches were a wake-up call

2016 saw many high-profile data breaches—the IRS in February, Premier Healthcare and Verizon in March, LinkedIn in May, the Democratic National Committee in July and, of course, the Yahoo! hack in September.

Fully 25 percent of Americans—and 29 percent of American men—say these hacks prompted them to get more strategic about their online security. The three breaches that prompted the most action were the Yahoo! breach (11 percent), the IRS hack (7 percent) and the Democratic National Committee hack (6 percent).

Russia at our door

Nearly half of Americans (48 percent) worry about hacker groups—especially men, and they mostly worry about Russia:

Which hacker group or entity are you most worried about impacting your life?	Men	Women
Russia	20 percent	16 percent
Anonymous	18 percent	14 percent
Petty thief	17 percent	12 percent
China	14 percent	11 percent

Parsed by age, Americans are consistently most afraid of Russia and Anonymous and least afraid of "the neighborhood nerd" (7 percent)—except for seniors, who view China as the greatest threat.

"These survey results illustrate that Americans are very concerned when it comes to cyber-attacks, especially those from other countries," said Ebba Blitz, CEO of Alertsec. "However, there are many security options for consumers and businesses to adopt that provide secure protection for their users. For example, full-disk encryption is one of the most effective ways to protect data on a laptop."

There are also some interesting regional variations. Americans in the West generally feel the least threatened by hackers, and Americans in the Northeast feel the most threatened:

Which hacker group or entity are you most worried about?	West	South	Midwest	Northeast
Russia	14 percent	18 percent	19 percent	21 percent
Anonymous	13 percent	15 percent	15 percent	19 percent
Petty thief	14 percent	13 percent	15 percent	17 percent
China	12 percent	11 percent	17 percent	11 percent
Neighborhood nerd	6 percent	7 percent	8 percent	8 percent

Survey Methodology

Alertsec commissioned the 2016 Security Breach Study to over 1,000 American adults from November 10 – 12, 2016 via Google Consumer Surveys.

About Alertsec

Alertsec, a Palo Alto-based laptop encryption company, provides a cloud-based encryption software with 24/7 helpdesk support. No server, IT knowledge or training is needed, as everything is included in the subscription. The implemented encryption has the highest security certifications—FIPS and Common Criteria. Learn more at www.alertsec.com.