

Malaysia hit by 57.8 million virus cyberattacks in Q1 this year

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia recorded 57.8 million virus attacks in the first quarter of 2022 (Q1 2022), which accounted for 1.14 per cent of the total cyberattacks around the globe, according to Fortinet.

Fortinet's Fortiguard Labs security strategist Jonas Walker said the number of botnet detection stood at 57.2 million, representing 1.19 per cent of global threats. The exploit detection in Q1 2022 saw 3.96 billion attacks, which translated to 0.95 per cent of the total global detections.

"A virus attack is something like a file which needs to be executed in a website or gets downloaded into your system. An exploit is a simple command that can be used against the system connected to the Internet."

"Botnet is a malware attack similar to a virus that is installed in the system and waiting for a command or control server to send certain actions," Walker said yesterday.

He said the trends of cyberattacks were increasing in Malaysia as the threat actors were continuously scanning and adapting to the latest developments around the globe.

"They are monitoring very closely what is happening in the real world which you may be interested in, and try to put this information into a phishing campaign to get your attention."

Fortinet, the global leader in broad, integrated and automated cybersecurity solutions, yesterday released the Asia findings of the 2022 Cybersecurity Skills Gap Report.

Fortinet Asia vice-president of marketing and communication Rashish Pandey said the Southeast Asia and Hong Kong survey showed that 71 per cent of the participating companies were facing difficulty in hiring technology-qualified talents for cybersecurity.

"Sixty-three per cent of them agree that skills shortage results in severe cybersecurity consequences for the business."

The report surveyed IT and cybersecurity decision-makers across Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Indonesia, and suggested ways the skills gap can be addressed through training and certification to increase employees' education. **Bernama**