

Microsoft Security Intelligence Report

Volume 22 | January through March, 2017

Pakistan

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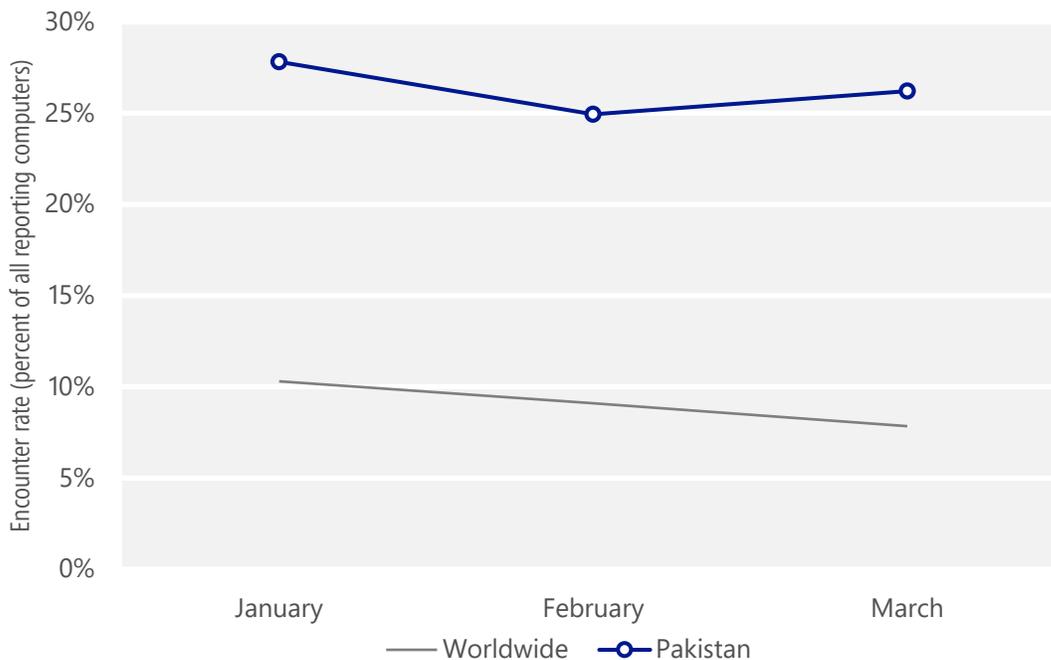
Pakistan

The statistics presented here are generated by Microsoft security programs and services running on computers in Pakistan in March 2017 and previous quarters. This data is provided from administrators or users who choose to opt in to provide data to Microsoft, using IP address geolocation to determine country or region.

Encounter rate trends

In March 2017, 26.2 percent of computers in Pakistan encountered malware, compared to the March 2017 worldwide encounter rate of 7.8 percent. The following figure shows the encounter and infection rate trends for Pakistan over the last three months, compared to the world as a whole.

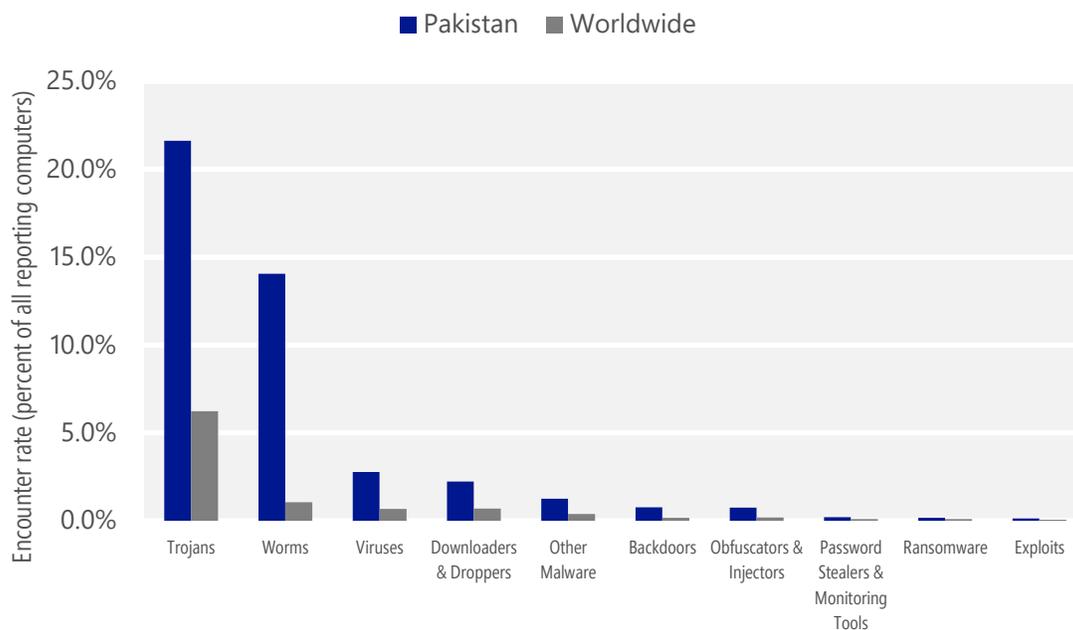
Malware encounter rate trends in Pakistan and worldwide



See the full report at <http://www.microsoft.com/sir> for more information about threats in Pakistan and around the world, and for explanations of the methods and terms used here.

Malicious software categories

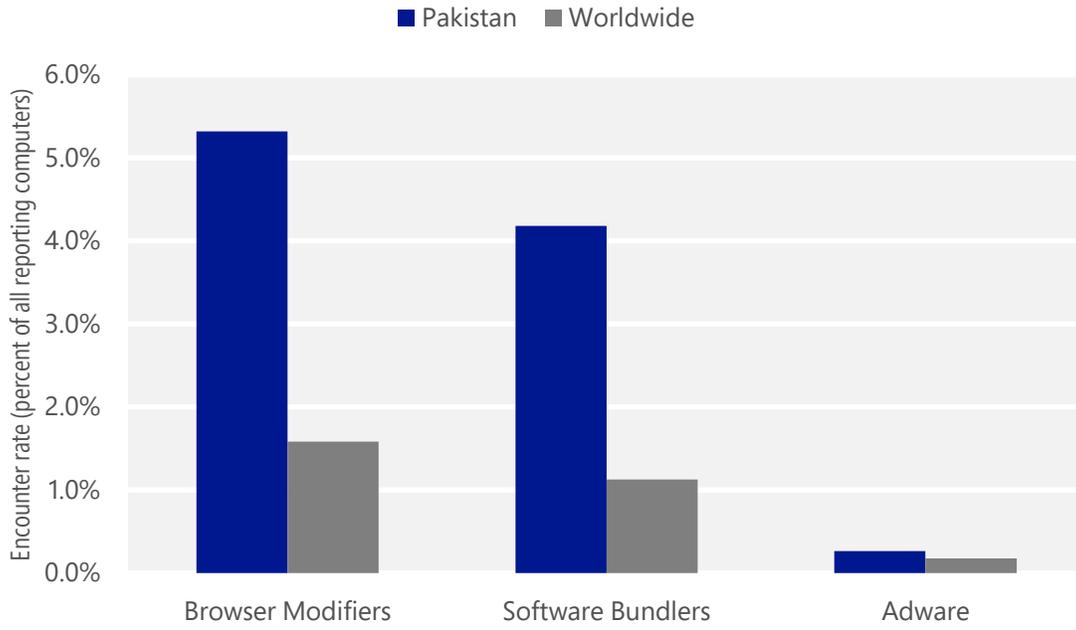
Malicious software encountered in Pakistan in March 2017, by category



- The most common malicious software category in Pakistan in March 2017 was Trojans. It was encountered by 21.62 percent of all computers there, up from 21.04 percent in February 2017.
- The second most common malicious software category in Pakistan in March 2017 was Worms. It was encountered by 14.05 percent of all computers there, up from 13.93 percent in February 2017.
- The third most common malicious software category in Pakistan in March 2017 was Viruses, which was encountered by 2.77 percent of all computers there, down from 3.04 percent in February 2017.

Unwanted software categories

Unwanted software encountered in Pakistan in March 2017, by category



- The most common unwanted software category in Pakistan in March 2017 was Browser Modifiers. It was encountered by 5.32 percent of all computers there, down from 5.59 percent in February 2017.
- The second most common unwanted software category in Pakistan in March 2017 was Software Bundlers. It was encountered by 4.18 percent of all computers there, up from 4.14 percent in February 2017.
- The third most common unwanted software category in Pakistan in March 2017 was Adware, which was encountered by 0.27 percent of all computers there, down from 0.43 percent in February 2017.

Top malicious software families by encounter rate

The most common malicious software families encountered in Pakistan in March 2017

	Family	Most significant category	% of reporting computers
1	Win32/Skeeyah	Trojans	3.45%
2	Win32/Fuery	Trojans	3.37%
3	Win32/Vigorf	Trojans	2.17%
4	Win32/Nuqel	Worms	1.91%
5	Win32/Dynamer	Trojans	1.78%
6	VBS/Jenxcus	Worms	1.64%
7	Win32/Swrort	Trojans	1.55%
8	Win32/Gamarue	Worms	1.52%
9	Win32/Ippedo	Worms	1.41%
10	Win32/Spursint	Trojans	1.19%

- The most common malicious software family encountered in Pakistan in March 2017 was [Win32/Skeeyah](#), which was encountered by 3.45 percent of reporting computers there. [Win32/Skeeyah](#) is a generic detection for various threats that display trojan characteristics.
- The second most common malicious software family encountered in Pakistan in March 2017 was [Win32/Fuery](#), which was encountered by 3.37 percent of reporting computers there. [Win32/Fuery](#) is a cloud-based detection for files that have been automatically identified as malicious by the cloud-based protection feature of Windows Defender.
- The third most common malicious software family encountered in Pakistan in March 2017 was [Win32/Vigorf](#), which was encountered by 2.17 percent of reporting computers there. [Win32/Vigorf](#) is a generic detection for a variety of threats.
- The fourth most common malicious software family encountered in Pakistan in March 2017 was [Win32/Nuqel](#), which was encountered by 1.91 percent of reporting computers there. [Win32/Nuqel](#) is a worm that spreads via mapped drives and certain instant messaging applications. It may modify system settings, connect to certain websites, download arbitrary files, or take other malicious actions.

Top unwanted software families by encounter rate

The most common unwanted software families encountered in Pakistan in March 2017

	Family	Most significant category	% of reporting computers
1	Win32/Linkhortry	Browser Modifiers	1.51%
2	Win32/ICLoader	Software Bundlers	1.40%
3	Win32/Sasquor	Browser Modifiers	1.06%
4	Win32/Heazycrome	Browser Modifiers	1.04%
5	Win32/Foxiebro	Browser Modifiers	0.97%

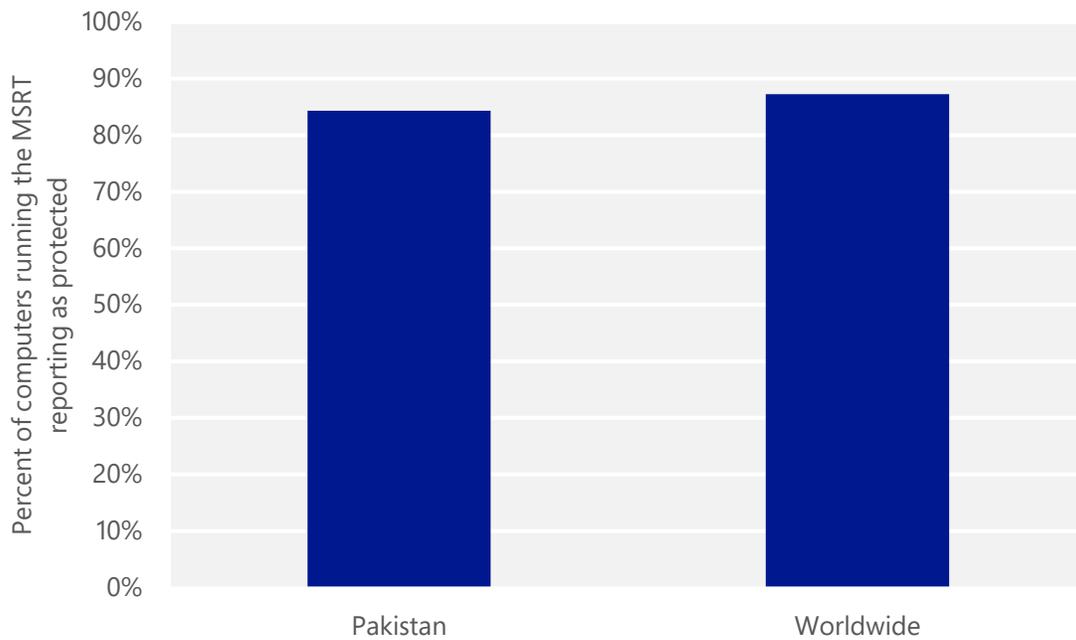
- The most common unwanted software family encountered in Pakistan in March 2017 was [Win32/Linkhortry](#), which was encountered by 1.51 percent of reporting computers there. [Win32/Linkhortry](#) is a browser modifier that modifies shortcut files. When launched using these modified shortcuts, the browsers open certain websites that the user may not intend to visit.
- The second most common unwanted software family encountered in Pakistan in March 2017 was [Win32/ICLoader](#), which was encountered by 1.40 percent of reporting computers there. [Win32/ICLoader](#) is a software bundler distributed from software crack sites, which installs unwanted software alongside the desired program. It sometimes installs other unwanted software, such as Win32/Neobar.
- The third most common unwanted software family encountered in Pakistan in March 2017 was [Win32/Sasquor](#), which was encountered by 1.06 percent of reporting computers there. [Win32/Sasquor](#) is a browser modifier that modifies search and home page settings, and installs services and scheduled tasks to prevent the user from changing them back. It can also download additional malware, including Win32/SupTab and Win32/Xadupi.

Security software use

Recent releases of the MSRT collect and report details about the state of real-time antimalware software on a computer, if the computer's administrator has chosen to opt in to provide data to Microsoft. This telemetry data makes it possible to analyze security software usage patterns around the world and correlate them with infection rates.

The figure below shows the percentage of computers worldwide and in Pakistan that the MSRT found to be running up-to-date real-time security software in March 2017.

Percent of computers in Pakistan and worldwide protected by real-time security software in March 2017



Malicious websites

Attackers often use websites to conduct phishing attacks or distribute malware. Malicious websites typically appear completely legitimate and often provide no outward indicators of their malicious nature, even to experienced computer users. In many cases, these sites are legitimate websites that have been compromised by malware, SQL injection, or other techniques, in an effort by attackers to take advantage of the trust users have invested in them. To help protect users from malicious webpages, Microsoft and other browser vendors have developed filters that keep track of sites that host malware and phishing attacks and display prominent warnings when users try to navigate to them.

The information presented in this section has been generated from telemetry data produced by Windows Defender SmartScreen in Microsoft Edge and Internet Explorer. See the Malicious Websites section of [Microsoft Security Intelligence Report, Volume 22](#) for more information about these protections and how the data is collected.

Malicious website statistics for Pakistan

Metric	Pakistan	Worldwide
Drive-by download pages per 1,000 URLs	0.14	0.17
Phishing sites per 1,000 Internet hosts	3.2	6.3
Malware hosting sites per 1,000 Internet hosts	16.6	14.8



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