



Mercenary Spyware Attack

[Source: TH](#)

Apple has recently issued urgent security alerts to **iPhone users** in India and 91 other countries. The notifications warn that their devices have been remotely targeted in a **mercenary spyware attack**.

- Mercenary spyware attacks are **exceptionally rare** and highly sophisticated compared to regular [cybercriminal activity](#) or consumer malware.
- Unlike common cyber threats, mercenary spyware aims to **gain unauthorised access** to a user's device.
 - If a device is compromised by a targeted mercenary spyware attack, the attacker may be able to **remotely access sensitive data**, communications, or even the camera and microphone.
 - These are **strategically aimed**, high-cost attacks, historically linked to states, targeting select individuals like journalists, activists, politicians, and diplomats.
 - [Pegasus, developed by the NSO Group](#) is one of the **examples** of Mercenary [Spyware](#).

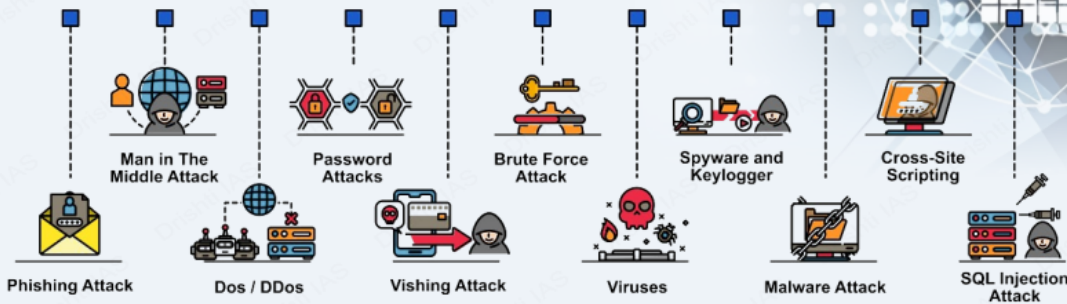
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CYBER SECURITY

Cybersecurity refers to any technology, measure, or practice for preventing cyberattacks or mitigating their impact.

CYBER SECURITY ATTACKS



'Crime in India' Report 2022 (NCRB) highlighted 24.4% surge in cybercrimes in India since 2021.

Common Cybersecurity Myths

- Strong passwords alone are adequate protection
- Major cybersecurity risks are well-known
- All cyberattack vectors are contained
- Cybercriminals don't attack small businesses

Cyber Warfare

- Digital attacks to disrupt vital computer systems, to inflict damage, death, and destruction.

CYBER THREAT ACTORS

CYBER THREAT ACTOR	MOTIVATION
NATION-STATES	GEOPOLITICAL
CYBERCRIMINALS	PROFIT
HACKTIVISTS	IDEOLOGICAL
TERRORIST GROUPS	IDEOLOGICAL VIOLENCE
THRILL-SEEKERS	SATISFACTION
INSIDER THREATS	DISCONTENT

Types of Cybersecurity

- Critical infrastructure security (Robust access controls)
- Network security (Deploying firewalls)
- Application security (Code reviews)
- Cloud Security (Tokenization)
- Information security (Data masking)

Recent Major Cyber Attacks

- WannaCry Ransomware Attack (2017)
- Cambridge Analytica Data Breach (2018)
- Financial data of 9M+ cardholders, including SBI, leaked (2022)

Regulations & Initiatives

- International:**
 - UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace
 - NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE)
 - Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, 2001 (India not a signatory)
- India:**
 - IT Act, 2000 (Sections 43, 66, 66B, 66C, 66D)
 - National Cyber Security Policy, 2013
 - National Cyber Security Strategy 2020
 - Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
 - Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
 - Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In)

Steps Needed for Cyber Security

- Network Security
- Malware Protection
- Incident Management
- User Education and Awareness
- Secure Configuration
- Managing User Privileges
- Information Risk Management Regime



Read More: [Pegasus Spyware](#)

