

Security

## Canada's summer of ransomware ends with a spike [Malware map]



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Published: September 11th, 2017

*Editor's note: Story and map updated with malware data from August 2017.*

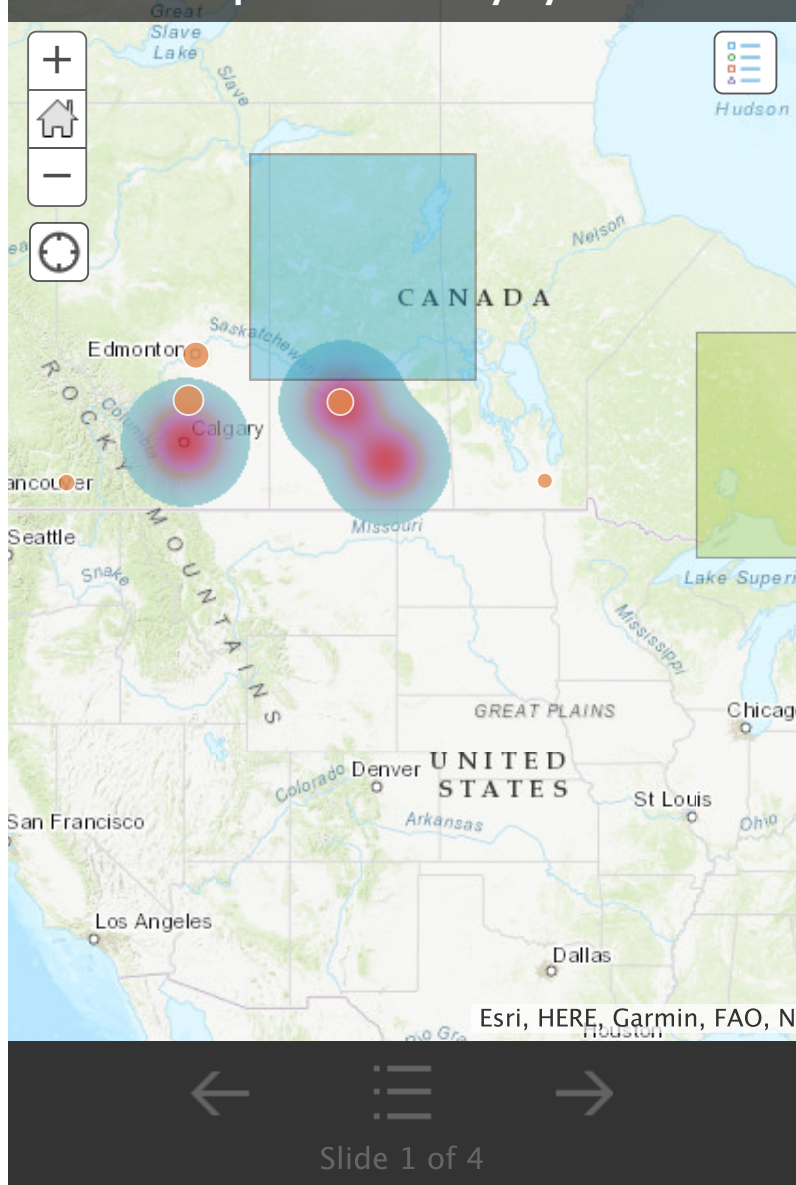
Overall malware infections were on the down curve over the summer in Canada, but it looks like hackers are focusing in on ransomware as their cyber weapon of choice.

Malware infections saw a small decrease of 11.5 per cent to the 50,000 range from July to August, according to malware infection data supplied by [EnigmaSoftware.com](https://enigma-software.com). But Ransomware infections shot up in the same period by 23 per cent.

The data shows that ransomware is becoming the favoured attack of hackers that are looking to make a quick buck. Ransomware attacks typically lock up and threaten to destroy critical files unless the victim pays a ransom to the attacker. The payment is often demanded in Bitcoin so that it can't be traced.

Ottawa's been at the top of our malware map for months now. The capital carries an infection rate of 980 per cent higher than the national average in August. That's actually an improvement over the past several months that saw it at over 1,000 per cent of the national average. Explore our latest malware map update below:

Welcome to IT World Canada's Cyber-security Map of Canada. You can explore the data represented here by layer:



## 2016 IT budgets in Canada

Thanks to an update from IDC Canada, we have new security budget data for four Canadian regions – Ontario, Quebec, Atlantic, and Western Canada. The standard for spending seems consistent across the country at 10 per cent of overall IT budgets, but Western Canada shaved off a bit to an average of 8 per cent. There are differences in what areas of security the regions are spending, with server being the top priority everywhere except in Quebec, where cloud was the top priority.

## Ransomware in Canada

We added this new data layer in April 2016, thanks to some data from the [Malwarebytes blog](#). After finding ransomware being spread by a Hamilton, Ont.-based

hospital's website, Malwarebytes took stock of the ransomware situation across Canada. Researchers have ranked this category of malware as one of the most threatening in Canada for several years now.

Since January, Malwarebytes Anti-Malware software detected more than 10,000 instances of the malware affecting Canadians. It provided a top 10 list of Canadian cities most affected by malware, and we've added them to our map (look for the yellow briefcase icons).

### **Canada's most malware-infected cities**

Ransomware and rogue anti-spyware are the worst types of malware afflicting Canadian computers, EnigmaSoftware.com reports. Ransomware variants like CTB Locker and UKash locks off access to computer files and demands money be sent in order to restore access to the information.

Rogue anti-spyware such as Winfix 10 and PC Speed Maximizer create fraudulent messages claiming a computer is infected and then offers to fix the problem in exchange for money.

### **See our map of Canada's wireless landscape:**



#### **Interactive map: Inside Canada's wireless landscape**

Canadians love their smartphones and wireless devices, even if we don't always love our carriers and the service they provide. And our experiences can vary depending on

Published on: July 15th, 2015 Jeff Jedras @jeffjedrasitw

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## **Cybercrime in Canada**

We've also updated our cybercrime map of Canada with a new layer of data, showing the police-reported cybercrime from 2013, the most recent data available from Statistics Canada. The range of cybercrime reported by police services in Canada range from types of fraud to threats to crimes of a sexual nature. In 2013, more than half of all cybercrime reported was described as a fraud violation, with 6,203 offenses out of a total of 11,124 offenses across all categories.

Rounding out the top five most-common cybercrimes committed in 2013: uttering threats (786 offenses), child pornography (761), criminal harrassment (735), and luring a child via a computer (638). In sixth spot, identity fraud was reported 580 times, while identity theft was tallied as a separate category and reported 131 times.

Statistics Canada's data is reported by police services covering 80 per cent of the Canadian population. In Ontario, police services covering 62 per cent of the population reported cybercrime statistics. Notably, Toronto is not included.

York Region was Canada's hottest region for cybercrime in 2013, with 716 offences reported there. Following was Vancouver with 574, Ottawa with 509, Halifax with 236, and Hamilton with 231.

*Do you have data you think could add to our Malware Map of Canada? Let us know on Twitter by tweeting [@itbusinessca](#).*



#### About **Brian Jackson**

Editorial director of IT World Canada. Covering technology as it applies to business users. Multiple COPA award winner and now judge. Paddles a canoe as much as possible.

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