



# **Cyber Security in the GCC:** **Are we doing The Best We Can?**

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# A Brief History of Hacking



2010s

- Stuxnet worm attacks Irans Nuclear Facility
- Bank of America website hacked, 85000 credit cards and accounts stolen
- Playstation Network taken offline, with 77 Million PII leaked
- Bangladeshi hacker made a record in defacement history by hacking 700,000 websites
- Saudi hacker, published over 400,000 credit cards online
- Foxconn is hacked. Massive data leaked online
- Elite hacker sl1nk announced that he has hacked a total of 9 countries SCADA systems.
- Qatar National Bank Hacked, data leaked



2000s

- ILOVEYOU Worm introduced, affecting millions of computers
- DOS attacks introduced targeting domain servers
- Anna Kournikova virus is released
- Hacktivist group Anonymous was formed
- Turkish hacker iSKORPiTX successfully hacks 21,549 websites
- FBI Finds 1 Million Botnet Victims
- Anonymous attacks Scientology website servers around the world
- Google reveals of their IP theft



1990s

- 1260 or V2PX - First virus is created
- \$10 Million were siphoned from Citibank and transferred to multiple accounts throughout the world
- AOHell is released resulting in readymade application for script kiddies
- Hackers alter the websites of US DOJ, CIA and Air Force
- Yahoo notifies users that they may have downloaded a logic bomb



1980s

- New York Times describes the term hacker
- Ian Murphy is convicted as first felon for breaking into AT&T Computers
- The term 'Trojan Horse' is coined as security exploit
- Computer Fraud and Abuse Act is released
- First National Bank of Chicago is subjected to a \$70 Million Dollar computer theft
- CERT is formed



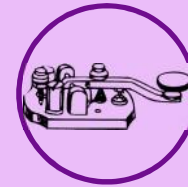
1940s / 1960s

- René Carmille, hacked the punched card machines to save countless jews from death camp
- Phreaking boxes emerge
- Password vulnerability in IBM 7094 is found



1939

- Bombe Machine is developed. Enigma is broken by Brute force attack



1903

- Nevil Maskelyne disrupts John Ambrose Fleming's demonstration by sending insulting Morse code messages through the auditorium's projector.

# Motivations

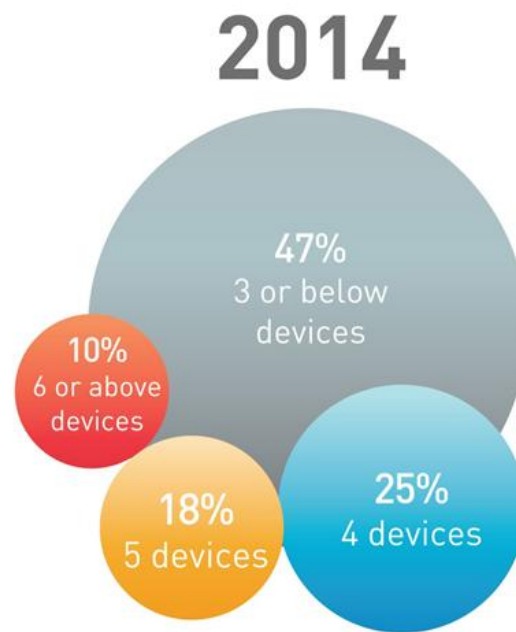
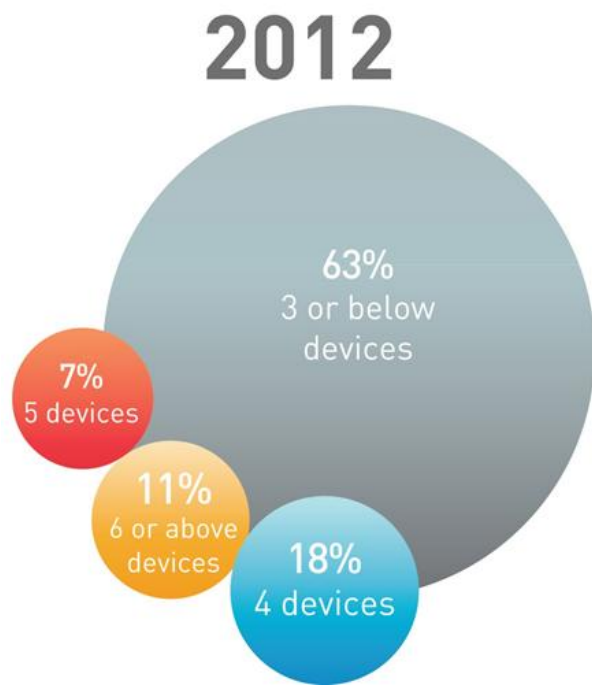


# More Connected Devices / Services, More Hacks



- Around 40% of the world population has an internet connection today. In 1995, it was less than 1%
- The number of internet users has increased tenfold from 1999 to 2013.
- The **first billion** was reached in 2005. The **second billion** in 2010. The **third billion** in 2014.
- Gartner report suggests that it will increase to 20 Billion Devices by 2021

# Personal Connected Devices in the GCC



70% of Professionals in the **GCC** carry more than 3 connected smart devices

# Digital Empowerment in Bahrain Education



# Changes in the Threat Landscape in the Middle East

## South African university website hacked by Anonymous

A South African university's website has been hacked by a group associating itself with Anonymous's #OpAfrica campaign.

Hacker holds UAE bank to ransom, demands \$3m - Gulf News



### Iran struck by cyberattack similar to April's oil hit

Iran's national CERT has warned of a new type of data-wiping malware that bears some of the hallmarks of a cyberattack that severely disrupted the country's oil industry earlier this year.



### Hackers steal \$1bn in series of online bank thefts says report



### Cyber-warfare in the Middle East is no game

Triska Hamid  
Nov 14, 2012

[Report: Iranian hackers hit Qatar during two-year campaign ... dohanews.co/report-iranian-hackers-hit-qatar-two-year-campaign/](http://dohanews.co/report-iranian-hackers-hit-qatar-two-year-campaign/)

### Cyber attacks rob \$45m from Gulf Banks

Faked RAKBANK and Bank Muscat credit cards used to take cash from ATMs in 27 countries in two co-ordinated attacks

Tags: Bank Muscat (www.bankmuscat.com), Credit card, Cyber crime, Mastercard, National Bank of Ras Al Khaimah, Oman, USA, United Arab Emirates

THE BLOG



### 'Sophisticated' attack on Twitter

Twitter hammered by a cyber attack similar to those on major Western news outlets

Twitter says hackers compromise 250K accounts  
Hacker attack shuts down Twitter

## 5 Colleges With Data Breaches Larger Than Sony's in 2014

01/15/2015 09:40 am ET | Updated Mar 17, 2015

## 35 percent of all security breaches take place in higher education



By Ian Barker

Published 1 year ago

Follow @IanDBarker

# New Challenges in Security

1

Physical and  
Cyber are  
Blending

2

Data is  
Aggregated  
and Available

3

Computer  
Power is  
Limitless



# Key IT Security Challenges

Hackers & Attack Sophistication

IT Security Compliance & Risk Mitigation

Security Intelligence, Monitoring & Management

People	Data	Application	Infrastructure	
BYOD	Leakage & Loss	Webification	Remote Access	Virus, Zero Day Malware
Roles & Responsibilities	Eavesdropping	Source code bugs	Guest Access	Secured Connectivity
Recruitment, Training & Awareness	Data in Rest / Motion	Spam	Internet Security	Physical Access

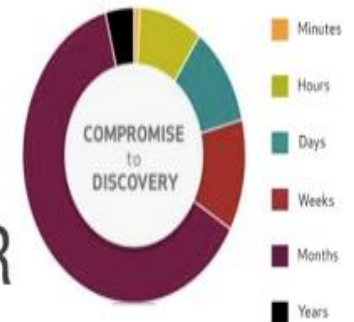
## 78% OF ATTACKS WERE LOW OR VERY LOW IN DIFFICULTY



EVEN ESPIONAGE LEVERAGED BASIC TECHNIQUES:  
95% OF ESPIONAGE RELIED ON PHISHING

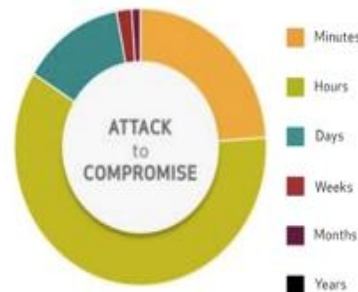


## 66% OF CASES WEREN'T DISCOVERED FOR MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS.



UP FROM 56% THE YEAR BEFORE

## IN 84% OF CASES, INITIAL COMPROMISE TOOK HOURS OR LESS.



ALMOST A QUARTER TOOK JUST MINUTES OR LESS

## 69% OF BREACHES SPOTTED BY AN EXTERNAL PARTY



9% DISCOVERED BY CUSTOMERS



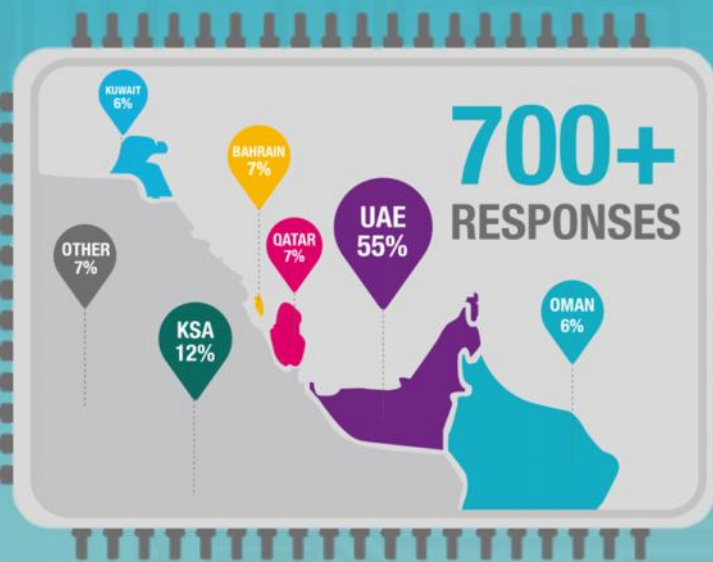
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**GBM 5TH ANNUAL  
SECURITY  
SURVEY  
2016**

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# Mixed Confidence

Executives Not Sure in Ability to Contain Compromise



**49%**

OF GULF EXECUTIVES DO NOT  
BELIEVE THEIR ORGANIZATIONS  
CAN PREVENT CYBER ATTACKS

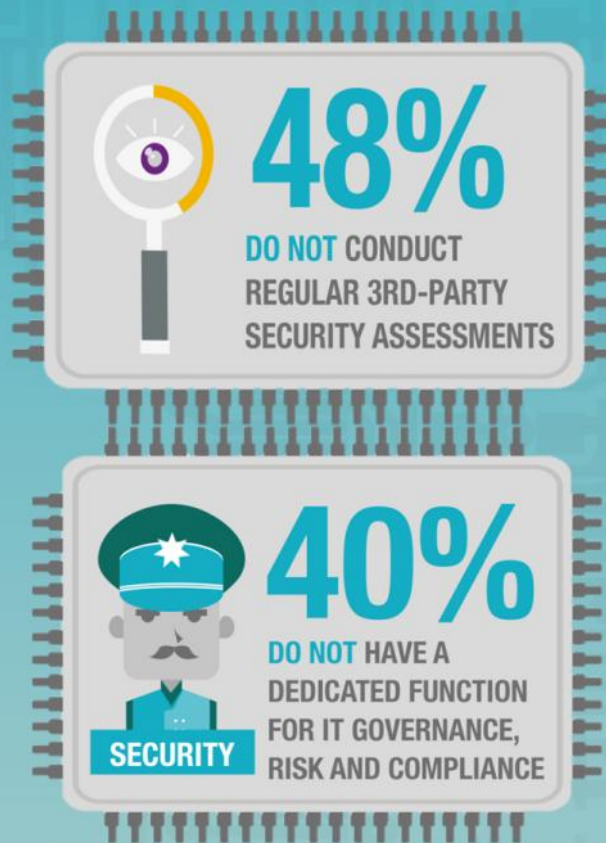


**56%**

BELIEVE THAT EXTERNAL  
THREATS ARE THE **GREATEST**  
**SECURITY RISK**

# Even the basics aren't covered.

Less than half security practitioners leverage security tools



- Identify Admin and Provisioning
- Patching and configuration
- Technical Assessments
- Quarantine malicious apps

# Public Breaches Can Improve Security.

More organizations conduct security training after an incident



# Maturity: Budget Constrains Rank High

71%



WILL INVEST THE SAME OR  
LESS ON SECURITY IN 2016  
DESPITE THE INCREASED  
CYBER RISK



## Problems that we have observed

- Cyber Security is still considered a part of IT
- The blind belief “This cannot happen to me”
- Lack of Security awareness campaigns in organizations
- Security is “Plug – And – Play” like an appliance
- Not investing enough in Business Continuity
- Reactive approach than Proactive

# What can you do?

## Security Ownership

- CISO
- Risk and Compliance team
- Management focus

## Proactive Vs Reactive

- Define Baselines
- Process and policies

## Identify Vulnerabilities

- By People, Processes and Technology
- Periodic external assessment

## Remediation Program

- Risk Management
- Impact Analysis
- 'Fix' the risks

## Plan Improvements

- Ensure regular and repeatable process

## Continued Focus

- Monitor and Measure
- Identify new trends and adjust approach accordingly

## Security Awareness

- Spread awareness on how to be more secure
- Via various medium like poster, newsletters etc





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