**Fortune 1000 Companies Facing Decline in Security Performance**

According to a latest research by security ratings firm BitSight, Fortune 1000 businesses are more at risk of security threats as compared to their non-Fortune 1000 counterparts, due to the type of data they hold and their weaker security strategies. This is why these businesses report more cases of security breaches and low security performance.

The Fortune 1000 companies were analyzed by comparing them against some random 25,000 companies that deal in similar industries and had a minimum of 2,500 employees. Cofounder and CTO of BitSight Stephen Boyer explained that till 31st of January this year, median security rating of Fortune 1000 companies was 700 on a scale of 250 to 900. On the other hand, non-Fortune 1000 companies were rated at 730. During the course of last 15 months, about one in every 20 Fortune 1000 companies suffered a security breach known to public, which is twice the rate of non-Fortune 1000 businesses.

Security performance of these companies has also dropped overall. Though 52 companies have improved in their ratings, 103 on the other hand have declined during the time period of October 2016 to January 2017. Boyer says that a possible reason could also be their legal obligation to reveal the breach to the public because of the type of data they possess.

BitSight researchers also discovered the presence of AndroidBauts and Necurs in 10% of Fortune 100 companies. The former is a malicious adware and steals valuable information for Android, while the latter is a botnet that drives many ransomware campaigns with strong DDoS capabilities.

However, Boyer says that many of the Fortune 1000 companies hold strong security posture in spite of overall weak security performance, with 75th percentile being on the same level as non-Fortune 1000 companies. Many of these companies share the same flaws, particularly in some areas. One of these, for instance, is the rate of compromises on their systems on a network. Another one is the failure to secure online services.

Boyer gave some valuable advice to Fortune 1000 companies working towards the improvement of their security posture. "Fortune 1000 companies should, first and foremost, prioritize incident detection and response," he said. "Companies that ensure system compromises are quickly remediated will likely reduce the chance of data exfiltration and breaches."