

Microsoft Security Intelligence Report

Volume 23 | July through December, 2017

Italy

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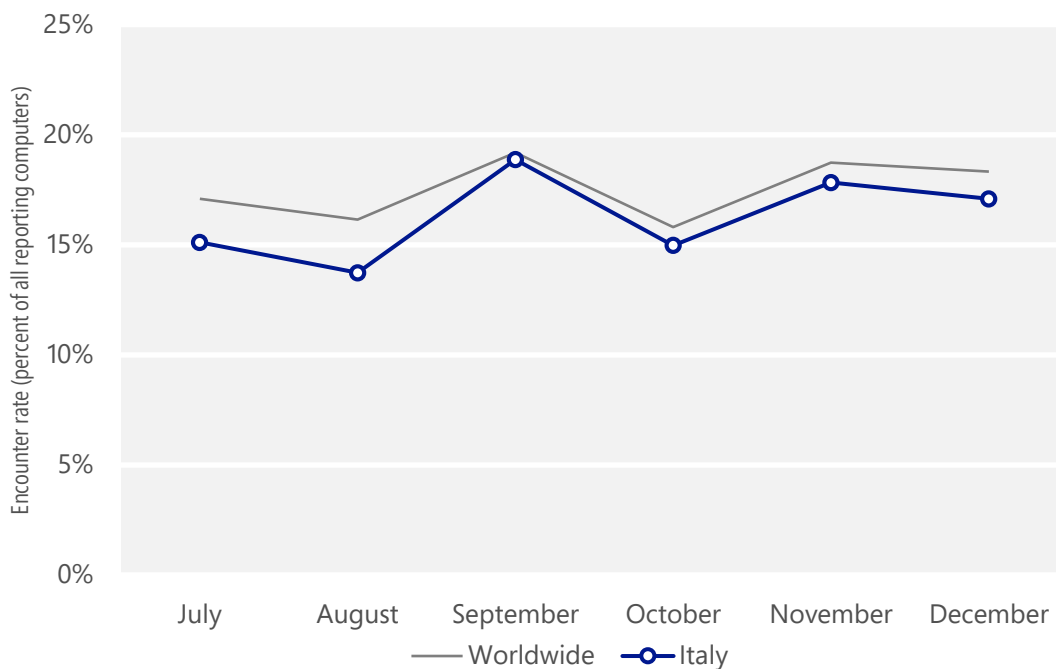
Italy

The statistics presented here are generated by Microsoft security programs and services running on computers in Italy in December 2017 and previous months. 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 December 2017, 17.1 percent of computers in Italy encountered malware, compared to the December 2017 worldwide encounter rate of 18.3 percent. The following figure shows the encounter rate trend for Italy over the last six months, compared to the world as a whole.

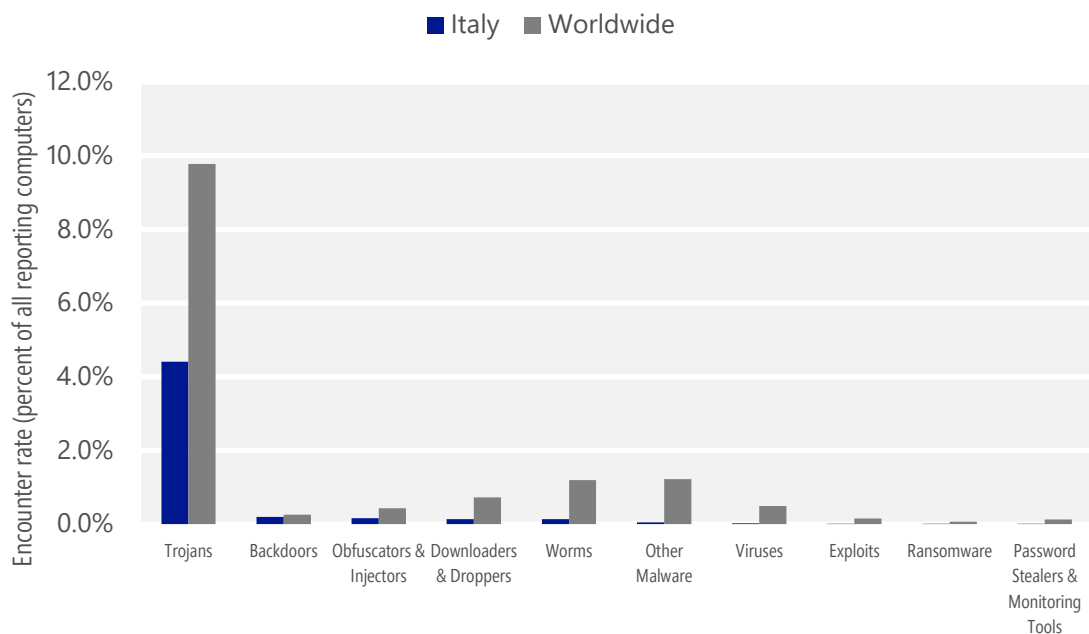
Malware encounter rate trends in Italy and worldwide



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

Malicious software categories

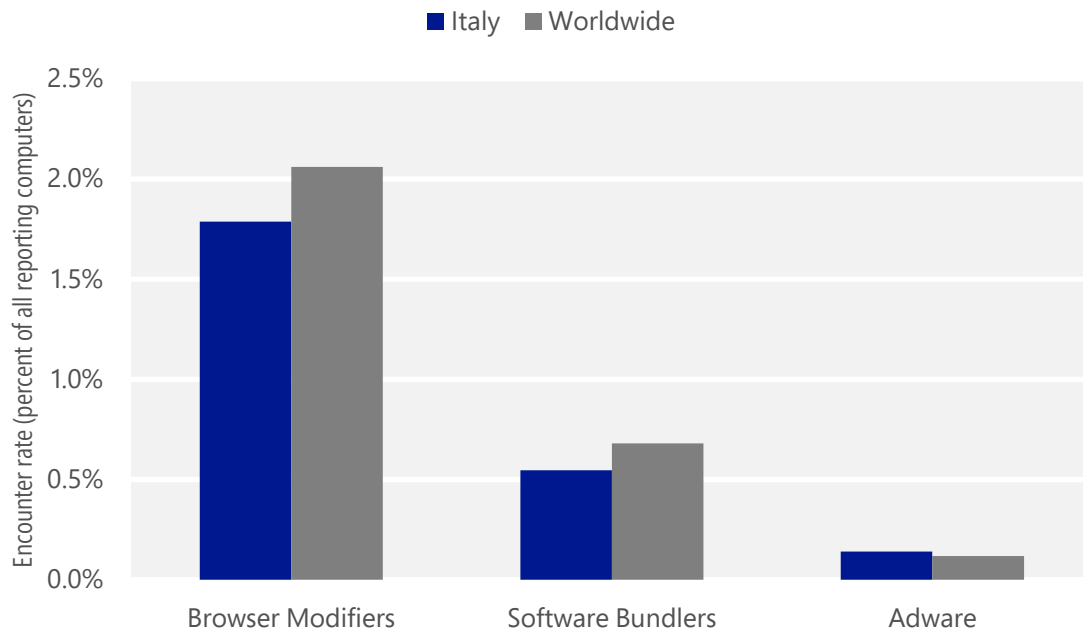
Malicious software encountered in Italy in 2H17, by category



- The most common malicious software category in Italy in 2H17 was Trojans. It was encountered by an average of 4.40 percent of all computers there each month during 2H17.
- The second most common malicious software category in Italy in 2H17 was Backdoors. It was encountered by an average of 0.20 percent of all computers there each month during 2H17.
- The third most common malicious software category in Italy in 2H17 was Obfuscators & Injectors, which was encountered by an average of 0.16 percent of all computers there each month during 2H17.

Unwanted software categories

Unwanted software encountered in Italy in 2H17, by category



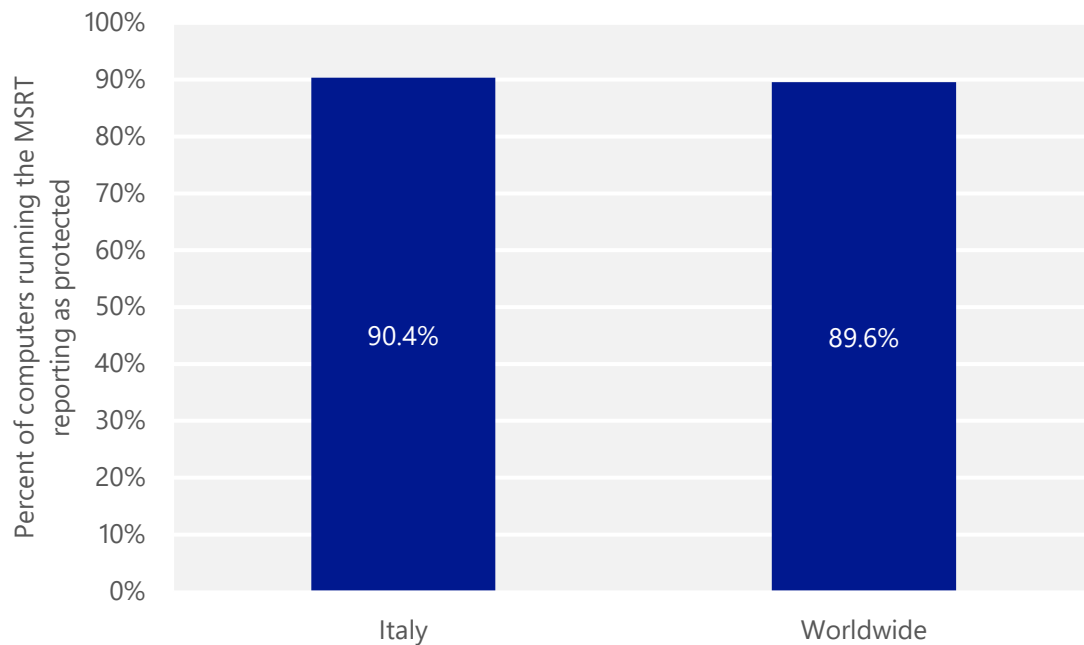
- The most common unwanted software category in Italy in 2H17 was Browser Modifiers. It was encountered by an average of 1.79 percent of all computers there each month during 2H17.
- The second most common unwanted software category in Italy in 2H17 was Software Bundlers. It was encountered by an average of 0.55 percent of all computers there each month during 2H17.
- The third most common unwanted software category in Italy in 2H17 was Adware, which was encountered by an average of 0.14 percent of all computers there each month during 2H17.

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 average percentage of computers worldwide and in Italy that the MSRT found to be running up-to-date real-time security software each month in 2H17.

Percent of computers in Italy and worldwide protected by real-time security software in 2H17



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. To help protect users from malicious webpages, Microsoft has developed tools that keep track of sites that host malware and phishing attacks and display prominent warnings in Microsoft Edge and Internet Explorer and on Bing when users try to navigate to them.

Additionally, this section provides the number of unique IP addresses in Italy that belonged to the Gamarue botnet between December 2017 and February 2018, after the botnet was disrupted in a coordinated effort involving Microsoft and several industry and law enforcement partners around the world. See the “Breaking botnets” section of the [Microsoft Security Intelligence Report, Volume 23](#) for more information about this operation.

The information presented in this section has been generated from telemetry data produced by Windows Defender SmartScreen in Microsoft Edge and Internet Explorer, from data about malicious websites tracked by Bing, and by Gamarue telemetry collected by the Microsoft Digital Crimes Unit (DCU). See the “Malicious websites” section of the main report for more information about these tools and services.

Malicious website statistics for Italy in 2H17

Metric	3Q17	4Q17
Average monthly drive-by download pages per 1,000 URLs (Worldwide)	0.06 (0.13)	0.04 (0.09)
Phishing sites per 1,000 Internet hosts (Worldwide)	8.1 (4.9)	
Malware hosting sites per 1,000 Internet hosts (Worldwide)	6.4 (10.6)	
Unique IP addresses in Gamarue botnet, December 2017–February 2018 (Worldwide)	156,331 (29.48 million)	



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