The History of Cybersecurity
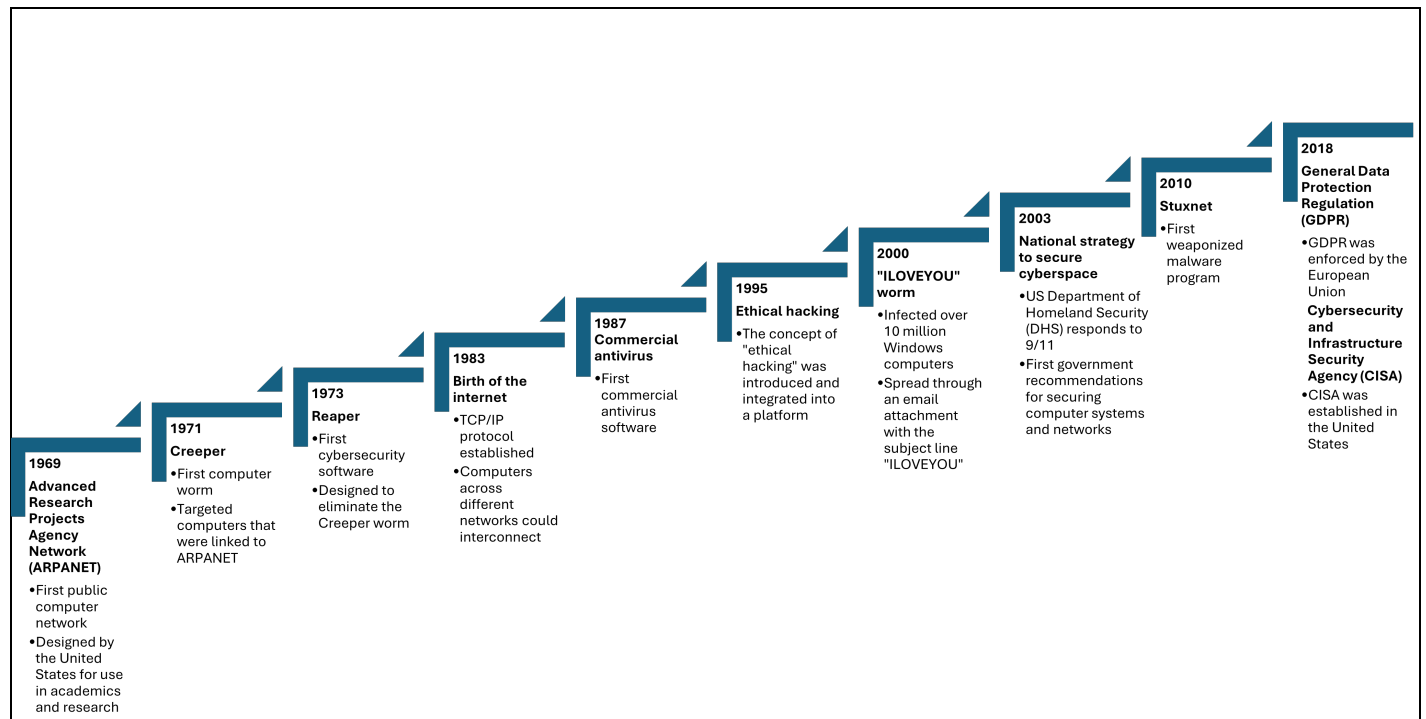
Estimated reading time: 5 minutes

Objectives

After completing this reading, you will be able to:

- Summarize the history of cybersecurity
- Identify significant historical events that have shaped the global cybersecurity landscape

Historical trajectory

The history of cybersecurity dates back to the early 1970s when the first computer worm emerged. However, it has undergone substantial evolution over the years, with the increased dependence on digital technology. This graphic provides a glimpse into the historical trajectory of cybersecurity.

1969
Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET)
- First public computer network
- Designed by the United States for use in academics and research

1971
Creeper
- First computer worm
- Targeted computers that were linked to ARPANET

1973
Reaper
- First cybersecurity software
- Designed to eliminate the Creeper worm

1983
Birth of the internet
- TCP/IP protocol established
- Computers across different networks could interconnect

1987
Commercial antivirus
- First commercial antivirus software

1995
Ethical hacking
- The concept of "ethical hacking" was introduced and integrated into a platform

2000
"ILOVEYOU" worm
- Infected over 10 million Windows computers
- Spread through an email attachment with the subject line "ILOVEYOU"

2003
National strategy to secure cyberspace
- US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responds to 9/11
- First government recommendations for securing computer systems and networks

2010
Stuxnet
- First weaponized malware program

2018
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- GDPR was enforced by the European Union
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
- CISA was established in the United States