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Phishing: These are the Days of the Week When You're Most at Risk

Companies face different security threats depending on the day of the week, with fraud and phishing peaking mid-week and more malicious code detected on a Monday. A report from security company eSentire found the biggest number of security threats are detected on weekdays, largely because that is when workers are at their desks and opening emails. Mondays and Fridays are less likely to see security threats, while fraud and phishing-related activity reaches its highest volume mid-week, when employees are in place to click on malicious links. "It is highly probable that this trend occurs because malicious code and fraud-related attacks are relying on users' interaction (typically, by employees who occupy the workplace during the work week)," the report noted. "For example, when email is used as a delivery method, a user must at some point initiate the download, execute a payload attachment or enter credentials to a fraudulent web page. Likewise, by browsing the web, users are exposed to malicious redirect attempts pointing a web browser to infrastructure controlled by adversaries," it said. One oddity is that code attacks - attempts to insert malicious software in an operating system or application - are more likely to be detected on a Monday than on any other day of the week. On Mondays, users will read through emails accumulated through the weekend, and some of these will be weaponized phishing. "While delivery of those emails will be attributed to the 'fraud' category, the actual execution of malicious attachments will contribute to malware detection spikes," he said. Another reason: most

users turn their work PCs off over the weekend, so, if a PC is infected with malware, it will often try to update or reconnect with its command-and-control server once it is switched back on again, at which point it becomes more easily spotted by anti-malware tools. Hackers -- particularly state sponsored ones -- are often observed to be working standard office hours for the countries in which they are located.