



*Issued 3/7/18*

## **Cyber Attacks Becoming No. 1 Business Risk**

SonicWall recorded 9.32 billion malware attacks in 2017 and saw more than 12,500 new Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) reported for the year. The annual threat report frames, compares and contrasts advances made by both cybersecurity professionals and global cybercriminals. Key findings include:

- Cyber attacks are becoming the No. 1 risk to business, brands, operations and financials
- 9.32 billion total malware attacks in 2017, an 18.4 percent year-over-year increase from 2016
- Ransomware attacks dropped from 638 million to 184 million between 2016 and 2017
- Ransomware variants, however, increased 101.2 percent
- Traffic encrypted by SSL/TLS standards increased 24 percent, representing 68 percent of total traffic
- Full-year data shows that ransomware attacks dropped from 638 million to 184 million between 2016 and 2017.
- Regionally, the Americas were victimized the most, receiving 46 percent of all ransomware attack attempts in 2017
- Microsoft Edge attacks grew 13 percent in 2017 over 2016
- Attacks against Acrobat, Acrobat DC, Reader DC and Reader were down across the board
- New targeted applications (e.g., Apple TV, Microsoft Office) cracked SonicWall's top 10 for the first time.

While the total volume of ransomware attacks was down significantly year over year, the number of ransomware variants created continues an upward trend since 2015. The variant increase, coupled with the associated volume of 184 million attacks, leaves ransomware a prevalent threat. SonicWall Capture Labs threat researchers created 2,855 new unique ransomware signatures in 2017, up from the 1,419 published in 2016. Ransomware against IoT and mobile devices is expected to increase in 2018.