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50% of computers are wide open for online attacks and malware

A new survey conducted among AOL users in the UK revealed that less than 50% of users deployed some kind of Internet Security device, while the rest didn't mind leaving their computers wide open for online attacks and ugly malware. Though 86% percent of the users were informed and concerned about cyber security, not all of them were eager to translate that to protecting solutions.

One in seven of the surveyed group hasn't heard about phishing, the online fraud via spoof emails of reputed firms. This comes as a surprise since AOL has been one of the main targets for phishing gangs and AOL members have been continuously bombarded with billing and other mails that claim to be sent from the ISP. Alerts were issued through user notifications and various media to safeguard as much users as possible from disaster.

"I would attribute the findings of this survey to the lack of proper awareness among users, about the true impacts of cyber crime. Most of them are naive about the fact that viruses, worms and phishing mails can rob them of their hard earned money or make a zombie out of their PC. Viruses that merely destroyed some files and made you restart the computer a couple of times are a thing of the past," ascertains Govind Rammurthy, CEO MicroWorld Technologies.

The findings of the survey call for increased awareness on virus protection, content security and anti-phishing mechanisms.

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