

# HOLIDAY SPAM BULLETIN

*Naughty and nice cyber security news for the holidays*

You better watch out.  
You better not cry.  
You better not pout.  
We're telling you why:

## SPAM IS ON THE RISE!

**F-Secure research finds that spam is the most common method for cyber criminals to spread malware in 2018.**

**Roughly 69 percent of spam emails attempt to trick users into visiting a malicious URL.**

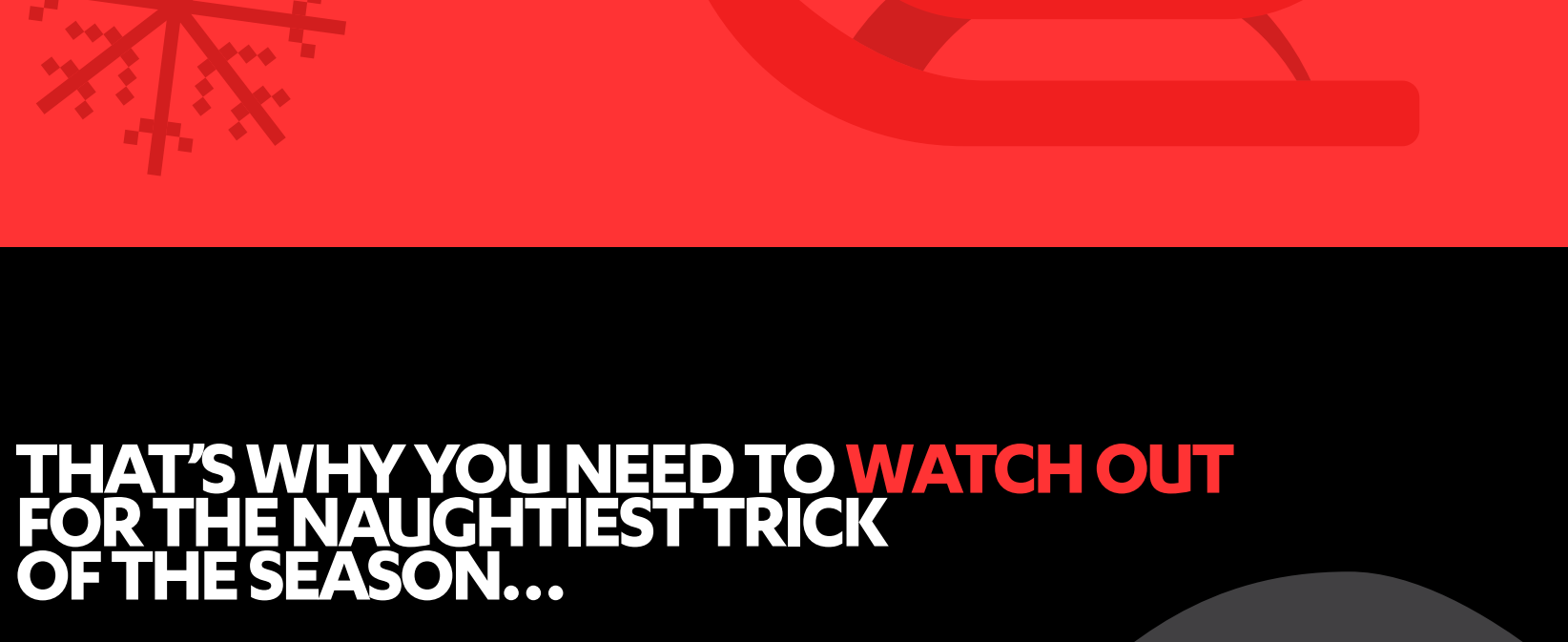
**Malicious attachments were used in the remaining 31 percent of spam.**

Spammers **know** that we're probably shopping and we're in the mood for

## DEALS

Simulated Black Friday and Cyber Monday phishing emails saw about **39 percent more people** click than similar tactics used at other times during the year.

**And who isn't expecting something to be shipped to your home—whether it's a gift you're receiving or giving?**



**THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR THE NAUGHTIEST TRICK OF THE SEASON...**

## NAUGHTY



### FAILED DELIVERY NOTIFICATION SPAM

This effective method of spam plays off

- The trust we have for well-known shippers or retailers
- Our expectation of something great arriving at our door
- The stress of the season

**LINKS IN THESE SPAM EMAILS OFTEN LEAD TO A MALICIOUS DOWNLOAD!**

### SPAM FACTS!

- Downloaders/bots/backdoors account for 52 percent of malware used in spam, followed by Banking Trojans (42 percent) and then ransomware (6 percent)
- The Emotet, Trickbot, and Panda banking trojans are the most frequently seen malware families used in spam
- The majority of observed spam campaigns target users in the US, EU, Canada, and Japan

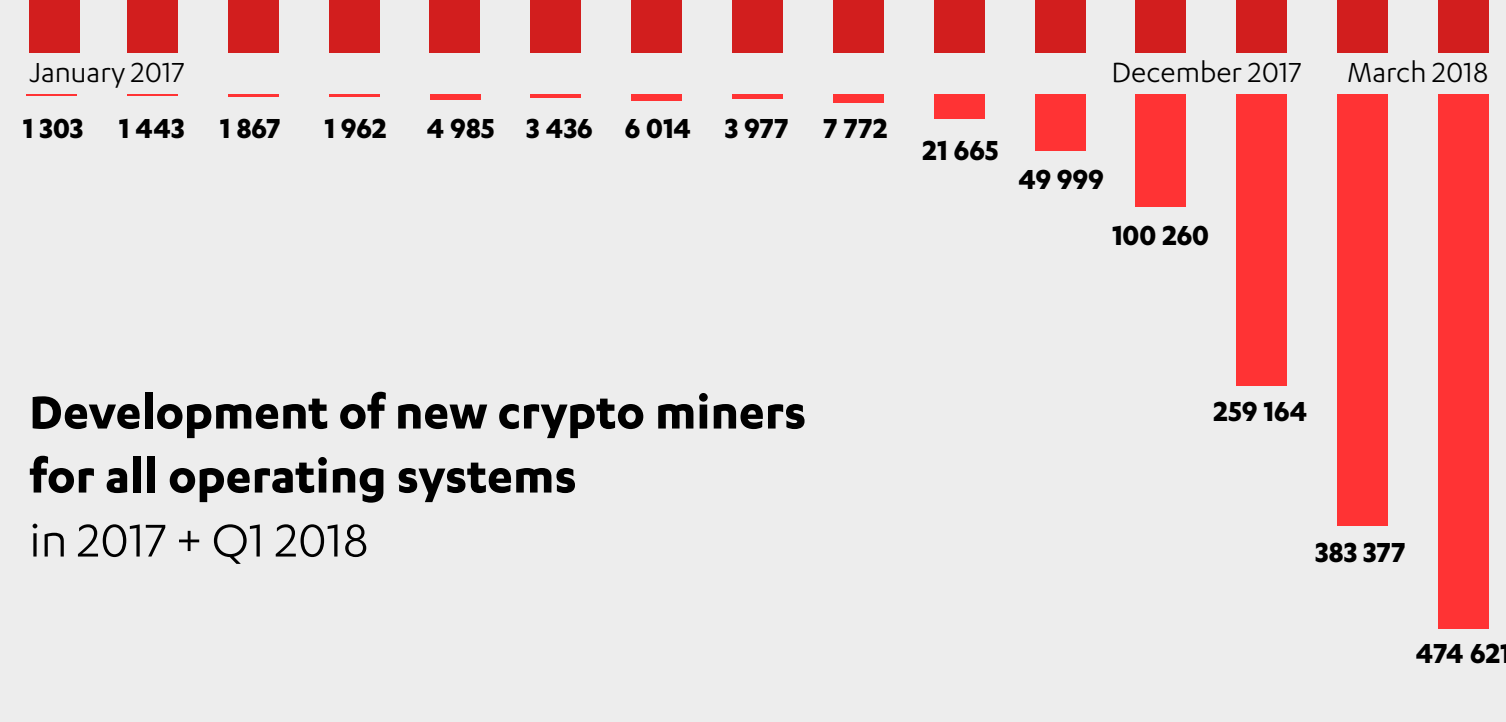
## NICE



### RANSOMWARE CONTINUES TO DECLINE!

F-Secure is seeing less ransomware in spam emails. But it's still frequently used as a follow-up payload to backdoors or bots—and cryptominers are still on the march.

#### Development of ransomware in 2017 + Q1 2018



#### Development of new crypto miners for all operating systems in 2017 + Q1 2018



Source: AV-TEST, Security Report 2017-2018

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO STAY OFF THE NAUGHTY LIST?

- Be careful when clicking links or opening attachments you receive in your email.
- Use strong, unique passwords.
- Always make sure you're running updated software and internet security.