PRESS RELEASE
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Game of Thrones is heaven for hackers, BestVPN.com research suggests

- Data reveals that hackers are targeting popular TV shows in order to spread malicious software
- Game of Thrones ranks as most dangerous TV show worldwide

Liverpool, 25th September 2018, Game of Thrones carries the highest risk of containing malware according to new data compiled by privacy advocate BestVPN.com and leading antivirus provider Kaspersky Lab.

The research suggests that TV shows are becoming an increasingly popular target for hackers with torrenting and illicit streaming sites proving an effective delivery mechanism for malicious code. According to data compiled by Kaspersky's threat research team, Game of Thrones is the most popular target for malware. BestVPN.com discovered that more that 170,000 infection attempts were detected under the guise of Game of Thrones over the past 12 months.

The Walking Dead series was also popular with around 100,000 infection attempts detected on nearly 20,000 computers around the world.

"Other TV shows, such as Stranger Things, WestWorld and Orange is the New Black are not as popular as Game of Thrones," noted Mariya Fedorova, security researcher at Kaspersky Lab. "Nevertheless, they are being used in malware distribution schemes."

Most popular television shows for malware distribution

Name	Total number of notifications	Total number of users	Total number of infected files
The Game of Thrones	170,305	49,970	30,217
The Walking Dead	100,062	19,437	14,854
Stranger Things	13,257	4606	2,629
Westworld	5,300	2,063	1,241
Orange Is The New Black	3,348	1,334	1,202

"These are exciting times for television fans," commented Sean McGrath, editor of BestVPN.com. "Streaming services have shaken things up and we are living through a new golden age of TV programming. But our love of television and desire to get things instantly makes us easy targets for those who wish to do us harm. Malicious executable files can easily be binded to video files, which means all a user needs to do is start watching a video and their computer could be infected. That's why it's vital to run quality antivirus software, regardless of platform or operating system."

"BestVPN.com always recommends using legitimate sources when watching TV content online," McGrath added. "VPNs can be used to unlock additional content from legitimate streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, providing users with excellent value for money."

ENDS

Notes for Editors
BestVPN.com have helped over 28 million users to access the internet when, where and how they wish.
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Kaspersky Lab
Kaspersky Lab is a leading antivirus provider with a deep understanding of malicious software, having over 20 years of experience in cybersecurity. Kaspersky operates in 200 countries and has nearly 400 million global users.