

Types of Cyberattack

On average, advanced cyberattacks go 197 days undetected ⁵.

Being aware of how cyberattackers infect systems can help your business detect abnormal activity and potentially help detect an attack early on.

Here are some of the common types of cyberattack:



Malware

Malware refers to the practice of deploying malicious software, including ransomware, spyware, viruses and worms to infect and breach a network.

This can result in blocked access to files and systems, criminals covertly obtaining sensitive information, and disruption to service, amongst others.



Data Integrity

Malicious data manipulation can be detrimental to a business. This is a highly sophisticated, and easily undetectable cyberattack that causes users to doubt the accuracy of their information. Manipulating public opinion through smear campaigns or changing information in a medical system are two examples of how this type of attack poses a huge threat to society.



SQL Injection

Deploying malicious code into an SQL-based server can force the server into revealing information it wouldn't normally reveal.

This type of attack can allow attackers to tamper with services enabling them to pose as other individuals, void transactions, change data, destroy data and approve administrative access to users.



Distributed Denial of Service

This type of attack uses multiple compromised systems to attack servers, networks, and systems to flood and exhaust resources forcing the network to fail and deny service to legitimate users.



Cyber-Collection

Used by nation states to conduct espionage and even corporate spies to gather intelligence on rivals, cyber collection is similar to snooping but is with the intention to scan, collect and exfiltrate sensitive information. An example of this is the famous Stuxnet computer worm first uncovered in 2010.



Snooping

Similar to the act of eavesdropping, snooping is the practice of unauthorised access to systems and data. This can include monitoring of keystrokes, passwords, login information, communications, webcams etc.