BIZCOMMUNITY

Kaspersky records over 2m phishing attacks in SA in H1 2021

According to cybersecurity company Kaspersky, there was a reduction in the number of phishing attacks in South Africa (17% decline), Kenya (48% decline), Nigeria 13% decline) for the first half of this year when compared to the same period in 2020. Kaspersky said that while the decline does suggest and support research trends - that cybercriminals have become more targeted, focusing their efforts on advanced persistent threat (APT) campaigns in Africa - the phishing threat is still very prevalent.

Source: Unsplash

“This decrease is in line with global trends and supports the decline that Kaspersky research identified happening through the course of last year already. Of course, this does not mean that organisations and consumers can ignore the risk of traditional cybercrime attacks or that phishing, as well as spam, are still not of significant concern across Africa. Instead, people need to become even more aware of cybersecurity best practices and remain vigilant to protect their personal and business systems from the risk of compromise,” says Bethwel Opil, enterprise sales manager at Kaspersky in Africa.

For instance, spam constituted almost 30% of email traffic in South Africa and close to 35% in Kenya in H1 2021. The number of phishing attacks recorded in South Africa for the first half of 2021 exceeded one million at 1,031,006. In Kenya, phishing attacks were recorded at 601,557, and in Nigeria 393,569. Reaching over two million attacks combined highlights that phishing is still a significant threat in Africa and illustrates the importance of ensuring cybersecurity solutions are installed on all connected devices.

USBs are back: Kaspersky uncovers a rare threat campaign

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“Phishing and spam remain some of the most effective ways of targeting unsuspecting users and gaining access into

corporate systems or compromising personal financial and other information that can be used to perpetrate identity theft," says Opil.

Phishing attacks across the continent have baited unsuspecting victims into handing over bank information, ID numbers, and more. Cybercriminals have become even savvier with their tactics, embracing more sophisticated technology to lure people into clicking on things they should not. For instance, the Covid-19 vaccine rollout throughout Africa has given rise to ample opportunity for cybercriminals to carry out several attacks that are hidden in what, at first glance, may appear to be relevant information.