

10 groups manipulating Chinese Internet virus

Most viruses spread through the Internet in China are the 'work' of only 10 hacker groups, but this Top Ten has very high technology.

A report by Kingsoft (based in Beijing) said most of the viruses spread over the Internet in China are the 'work' of 10 hacker groups, but the Top Ten has very high and sophisticated technology.



According to reports, there are more than 30 fiercely competitive groups on *the* underground 'virus market', where customers pay for hackers to produce and release viruses. However, only the 10 strongest groups control 80% of this particular market.

Viruses are spread in two ways, or hacker groups attack websites and from there launch viruses or embark on "*doing business*" with website owners, sharing profits.

These virus-producing teams make money by installing viruses on popular websites that offer free downloads of movies, e-books, and games to steal personal information and financial information from owners. 'victim' computer, causing great economic damage.

The profit of this black market is not small at all. Kingsoft reports that only one of the Top Ten groups can pocket at least 150 million yuan (\$ 22.8 million) each year.

Kingsoft is currently cooperating with police and cyber security forces to track down, when hackers manipulate the virus market.

A recent discovery is the website *www.xwoditg.cc* to sell mobile phone eavesdropping virus made by a hacker group. According to *NetQin* , another Chinese antivirus company, the virus called **X-spy** attacked 150,000 mobile phone users in the country.

Although a few years ago, **X-spy** was listed as a ban in China, but the website and the company moved to Thailand, continuing to trade the virus.

According to the company selling the virus, **X-spy** could allow eavesdropping on other people's phones through a technology loophole in smartphone systems. This virus can easily be installed on the phone '*victim*' or hidden in a multimedia message sent to that phone. Once installed, all calls to the '*victim*' phone are in the hands of the virus owner.

The virus sales company '*praises*' its product that it can help save marriages when it helps the husband or wife to investigate '*partners*' or help parents better control their children.

The price for such a virus is from 1,680-9,880 Yuan.

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