

# SonicWall: 'The Year of Ransomware' Continues with Unprecedented Late-Summer Surge

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- 148% surge in global ransomware attacks (495 million) year to date, making 2021 the worst year SonicWall has ever recorded
- Record-breaking total of 714 million ransomware attacks predicted by close of 2021
- Company recorded 1,748 ransomware attempts per customer through Q3
- 33% rise in IoT malware globally; upticks in North America, Europe
- 21% increase in cryptojacking with massive 461% growth across Europe
- SonicWall's patented Real-Time Deep Memory Inspection™ discovered 307,516 'never-before-seen' malware variants through September

MILPITAS, Calif. — OCT. 28, 2021 — SonicWall, the publisher of the world's most quoted ransomware threat intelligence, recorded a 148% increase in global ransomware attacks through the third quarter of 2021. With 495 million ransomware attacks logged by the company this year to date, 2021 will be the most costly and dangerous year on record.

This month, the current U.S. administration hosted a global ransomware summit (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-convenes-international-summit-on-ransomware-11634115600>) to pledge 'all national tools' to stop cyberattacks on critical sectors. Leading governments, including the UK, India, Australia, Germany and France, as well as the European Union, attended. SonicWall's latest research now confirms leaders have cause for concern.

"As we see it, ransomware is on a nearly unimaginable upward trend, which poses a major risk to businesses, service providers, governments and everyday citizens," said SonicWall President and CEO Bill Conner. "The real-world damage caused by these attacks is beyond anecdotal at this point. It's a serious national and global problem that has already taken a toll on businesses and governments everywhere. I'm hopeful that the recent global ransomware summit is the next step toward a greater response at global, national and state levels."

## Ransomware rise not slowing

2021 has been the most active year for ransomware on record — and is showing no sign of slowing. After posting a groundbreaking high in June (78.4 million), these malicious attacks continue to see aggressive growth in Q3.

"The techniques deployed by ransomware actors have evolved well beyond the smash-and-grab attacks from just a few years ago," said SonicWall Vice President of Platform Architecture Dmitriy Ayrapetov.

"Today's cybercriminals demonstrate deliberate reconnaissance, planning and execution to surgically deploy toolchains targeting enterprise and government infrastructure. This results in larger victims and leads to higher ransoms."

With 190.4 million ransomware attempts in Q3 alone, this makes it the highest quarter ever recorded by SonicWall, nearly eclipsing the 195.7 million total ransomware attempts logged during the first three quarters of 2020.

“While the world has been attempting to return to normal in a stop-and-go fashion, cybercriminals have never let up, driving ransomware campaigns to record numbers through the first three quarters of 2021,” said Conner. “These criminal organizations will continue to launch highly sophisticated cyberattacks that are designed to target organizations and business with weak or lax security controls.”

Despite movements to secure cyber infrastructures from respective national governments, the U.K. has seen a 233% surge in the number of ransomware attacks, and the U.S. has witnessed a 127% year-to-date increase.

All told, SonicWall logged 1,748 ransomware attempts per customer through Q3 — the equivalent to 9.7 ransomware attempts per customer each business day. SonicWall predicts that year-end 2021 ransomware totals will near 714 million, a staggering 134% year-over-year increase.

“As long as organizations continue to overlook or fail to implement cybersecurity best practices to reduce their attack surface, ransomware groups will only increase investments in time, resources and money for launching campaigns that result in massive payouts,” said Ayrapetov.

Patented RTDMI technology finding more new variants than ever  
SonicWall’s patented Real-Time Deep Memory Inspection™ (RTDMI) technology discovered 307,516 never-before-seen malware variants (+73%) during the first three quarters of 2021, with an average of 1,126 discoveries per day. If there is still a consistent number of attacks, alongside rapid diversification, nations will need to start addressing malignant cybercrime sooner rather than later.

Included as part of SonicWall’s cloud-based Capture Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) sandbox service, RTDMI™ leverages proprietary memory inspection and CPU instruction-tracking with machine-learning capabilities. This allows Capture ATP with RTDMI to become increasingly efficient at recognizing and mitigating cyberattacks never seen by anyone in the cybersecurity industry — including threats that do not exhibit any malicious behavior and hide their weaponry via encryption.

ICSA Labs issues SonicWall third straight ‘perfect score’  
As secured previously, SonicWall ATP has earned its third consecutive ‘perfect score’ in the ICSA Labs Advanced Threat Defense (ATD) testing for Q3 2021  
(<https://blog.sonicwall.com/en-us/2021/10/sonicwall-earns-its-third-perfect-score-in-a-row-from-icsa-labs/>).

During 28 days of testing, ICSA Labs subjected Capture ATP to 653 malicious samples and 695 innocuous apps. As a result, Capture ATP detected 100% of malicious files sent through the system while ignoring harmless apps, thus generating zero false positives. SonicWall has now received seven consecutive ICSA Labs ATD certifications.

#### About SonicWall Capture Labs

SonicWall Capture Labs threat researchers gather, analyze and vet cross-vector threat information from the SonicWall Capture Threat network, consisting of global devices and resources, including more than 1 million security sensors in nearly 215 countries and territories. SonicWall Capture Labs, which pioneered

the use of artificial intelligence for threat research and protection over a decade ago, performs rigorous testing and evaluation on this data, establishes reputation scores for email senders and content, and identifies new threats in real-time.

#### About SonicWall

SonicWall delivers Boundless Cybersecurity for the hyper-distributed era in a work reality where everyone is remote, mobile and unsecure. SonicWall safeguards organizations mobilizing for their new business normal with seamless protection that stops the most evasive cyberattacks across boundless exposure points and increasingly remote, mobile and cloud-enabled workforces. By knowing the unknown, providing real-time visibility and enabling breakthrough economics, SonicWall closes the cybersecurity business gap for enterprises, governments and SMBs worldwide. For more information, visit [www.sonicwall.com](http://www.sonicwall.com) or follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/SonicWall>), LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/SonicWall>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SonicWall>) and Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/sonicwall\\_inc](https://www.instagram.com/sonicwall_inc)).

#### Media Contacts

##### Geoff Blaine

Senior Vice President, Corporate Marketing  
[gblaine@sonicwall.com](mailto:gblaine@sonicwall.com)

##### Inés Mitsou

Senior Account Manager  
020 3637 0640  
[imitsou@positivemarketing.com](mailto:imitsou@positivemarketing.com)