Navigating the cybersecurity landscape

Cybersecurity remains a top priority in today’s interconnected world. Microsoft shares trends in endpoint threats and guidance for staying cyber-safe in India’s evolving landscape, based on analysis of over eight billion threat signals daily, from January to December 2019.

Evolving Cyberthreats in India

**Malware**

- 7th in the world
- Malware decreased by 1.81% on average
- Global average = 2.32% increase

**Ransomware**

- 3rd in the world
- Ransomware decreased by 1.29%
- Global average = 2.03% increase

**Cryptocurrency Mining**

- 2nd highest in the world
- Cryptocurrency mining decreased by 0.23%
- Global average = 0.34% increase

**Drive-by Download**

- 2018: Drive-by download attack volume was 2.24 times higher than the regional and global average
- 2019: Drive-by download attack volume was 2.4 times higher than the regional and global average

Threats Microsoft is Seeing since COVID-19

- Many of the companies and organizations that have had to work from home have seen an increase in cyber threats.
- Attackers have been seen using the COVID-19 pandemic as a theme to spread malware and phishing attacks.
- Remote work environments have made it easier for attackers to gain access to corporate networks.

Guidance from Microsoft

- **Organizations**
  - Safeguard employees with strong tools and training.
  - Lift static email black/whitelist on newly created users.
  - Include anti-rootkit protection on workstations with Adobe Reader.
  - Guide employees on how to identify phishing attempts in an otherwise stressful environment.

- **Individuals**
  - Update devices with the latest security updates.
  - Install an antivirus service on computing devices.
  - Watch out for malicious or compromised websites.
  - Avoid pirated software.
  - Recognize and report suspected attack attempts.
  - Verify all links and attachments before opening them.