

WEB BROWSER SECURITY TEST RESULTS SUMMARY: Q1 2010

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www.nsslabs.com/browser-security

Socially-Engineered Malware:
A web page link leading directly to a download that delivers a malicious payload

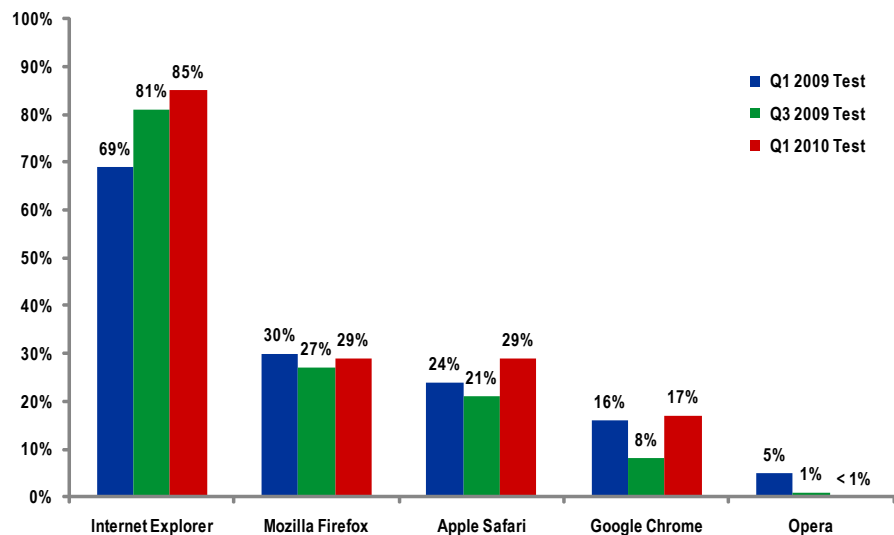
In January 2010, NSS Labs performed the third test of web browser protection against socially-engineered malware—the most common and impactful security threat facing Internet users today. Five web browsers were evaluated at the NSS Labs facility using our Live Testing Methodology. Data was gathered during 18 days of 24 x 7 testing, performed every six hours, over 74 discrete test runs, each one adding fresh new malware URLs. From an initial list of 12,000 socially-engineered malware URLs, 562 passed our stringent pre-screening and post-validation processes and were ultimately included in the test result set.

Socially-Engineered Malware Protection

Over the three tests, Windows Internet Explorer 8 provided the best protection against socially-engineered malware and was the only browser that improved its block rate test-over-test, successfully stopping 69%, 81%, and 85% of threats in each respective test.

All of the other browsers increased their protection between 2% and 9% over the previous test, except for Opera 10 which declined in its security effectiveness to less than 1%. Safari 4's improved protection is now on par with Firefox 3.5. Google Chrome 4 nearly doubled the block rate of Google Chrome 2 (tested in the previous report), yet it appears that its aggressive pruning by age of non-conforming URLs prevented it from providing better protection.

Mean Block Rate: Socially-Engineered Malware



ABOUT NSS LABS, INC.

NSS Labs, Inc. is the world's leading independent information security research and testing organization. Its expert analyses provide information technology professionals with the unbiased data they need to select the right products for their organizations. Pioneering intrusion detection and prevention system evaluation with the publication of the first such test criteria in 1999, NSS Labs also evaluates firewall, unified threat management, web application firewall, encryption, anti-malware, and other technologies on a regular basis. The firm's real-world test methodology is the only one to assess security products against live Internet threats. As such, NSS Labs tests are considered the most aggressive in the industry. Founded in 1999, the company has offices in Carlsbad, California and Austin, Texas.