

Topic: Compare cybersecurity risks in the U.S. and another country.

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The growing use of technology in today's society calls for a continued increase in cybersecurity worldwide. It appears that most countries have some cybersecurity measures in place. However, it is clear that the nations of the world are not on even ground with regard to the protection of their nation's information and devices. Even with efforts to neutralize every type of cyber threat that is encountered, the sheer number of said threats makes it difficult to have a completely secure nation. That being said, the United States and Canada are two countries which are best prepared to defend against cyber attacks (The Cyber Research Databank). This begs the question how these two countries compare in terms of the amount and nature of the cyber attacks that they each may be privy to.

In an article comparing countries worldwide based on the type and the number of cyber attacks, Cybersecurity Insider failed to recognize Canada as being of reportable risk for malware, cyber espionage, and ransomware (Goud). The United States, on the other hand, had a substantially higher rate of cyber espionage than the other countries listed, and was also mentioned as being commonly victimized by ransomware. However, Canada's risk for cyber security attacks is said to be on the rise, as "it's expected that threat actors will increase their efforts to exploit supply chain vulnerabilities in 2019" (Baker, 2019). One of the specific threats Canada apparently is growing increasingly concerned with is phishing attempts. These attempts are not unheard of in the United States, as well. Canada is also highly vulnerable to attacks in the business sector. As noted by Reynolds (2018), "data breaches have become a familiar feature on the [Canadian] corporate landscape." It has been reported that, "in fact, studies and reports

suggest that, among others, the prevalence of cybercrime, costs associated with compromise, risks to Industrial Control Systems, and sophistication of attacks are all growing” (Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness [CA], 2019).

Canada may not have started out at with as great of a risk for cybersecurity threats, but this appears to no longer be the case. Like many other countries, Canada’s risk for cyber attacks has grown with the development and introduction of new technology into society. Despite this, in 2018, the United States was still reported as being at a higher risk for cybersecurity risks than Canada, according to H. Solomon (2018).

Despite both being ranked as two of the countries most prepared to protect themselves against cyber threats, the United States and Canada still experience their fair share of cyber attacks. The nature of said attacks differs in each country, as do the types of cyber threats that are more prevalent in each. This goes to show that even the best prepared countries are still vulnerable to the growing cybersecurity threats that arise, and that it is important to continue updating and perfecting cybersecurity in even these well protected countries.

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