



# ANNUAL

## Dark Web Report

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# Executive Summary

## Top Takeaways

- The United States is the primary target across multiple threat types, accounting for 41.42% of ransomware attacks which is a drop from 53.30% in 2024; and 19.91% of Dark Web news which is an increase from 18.17% in 2024.
- Public Administration is the most exposed industry on the Dark Web at 12.85%, indicating sustained pressure on government institutions through data leaks. In 2024, Public Administration was on the third spot with 11.17% of the posts. We don't see a huge increase in terms of percentage but we see an upward trend.
- Data driven crime dominates the ecosystem. Data and database related threats represent 64.06% of Dark Web activity, while selling posts account for 59.32%, showing a clear focus on direct monetization.
- Last year Akira Ransomware was not even in the Top 3 but in 2025 they took the first place in terms of activity with 8.35% of ransomware attacks. In general the ransomware market is fragmented. This fragmented threat landscape is increasing unpredictability and operational risk for defenders.
- Stealer malware impacts scale driven platforms and regions. Major platforms like Facebook and Google dominate logs, while India, Brazil, and Indonesia lead infections, reflecting user scale and weak endpoint protection.
- Entry barriers across most illicit markets remain very low. Stealers, spam services, SMS abuse, and phishing panels start at minimal prices, which enables mass participation and supports large scale, low skill campaigns.
- Financial assets are valued by usability, not rarity. Widely adopted payment accounts and US or UK credit cards command higher prices due to acceptance and fraud success, while other regions stay at a lower price range.



## Why the Dark Web Matters

This Annual Dark Web Report presents a structured view of illicit activity observed across major underground markets during 2025.

The Dark Web is crucial in shaping the modern cyber threat landscape. It is often romanticized as a shadowy underworld, but it is better understood as a marketplace where exploits, vulnerabilities and sensitive data are traded.

Over the years, hacking has transformed. It has shifted from being about technical brilliance and sophistication to something far simpler: leveraging opportunities. Hackers today are not spending countless hours planning detailed attacks. Instead, they are opting for a more convenient and cost-effective approach. By purchasing valid credentials on the Dark Web, they bypass the need for complex exploits.

Following this trend, we designed this report as a reference for decision makers and security teams. It focuses on measurable trends, pricing behavior, and threat concentration rather than individual cases. All findings are based on our continuous monitoring of Dark Web forums, marketplaces, and related ecosystems.

The Dark Web has become a hub for distributing everything attackers need to carry out their operations and our report covers a wide range of illicit goods and services that support threat actors.

These include malware, exploits, and zero day markets that enable initial compromise. We also examined spamming, DDoS, phishing kits, and hacking services that scale attacks and reduce attacker effort. Financial crime is addressed through analysis of credit cards, online payment accounts, money laundering services, and fraud related offerings. Personal data, digital goods, and social media accounts are included to reflect identity abuse and influence driven threats. Emerging areas such as AI tools and AI related services are also tracked to fully capture today's threat landscape.

To address these challenges, organizations must fundamentally rethink their approach to cybersecurity since monitoring the Dark Web can give them the early signs of an attack.

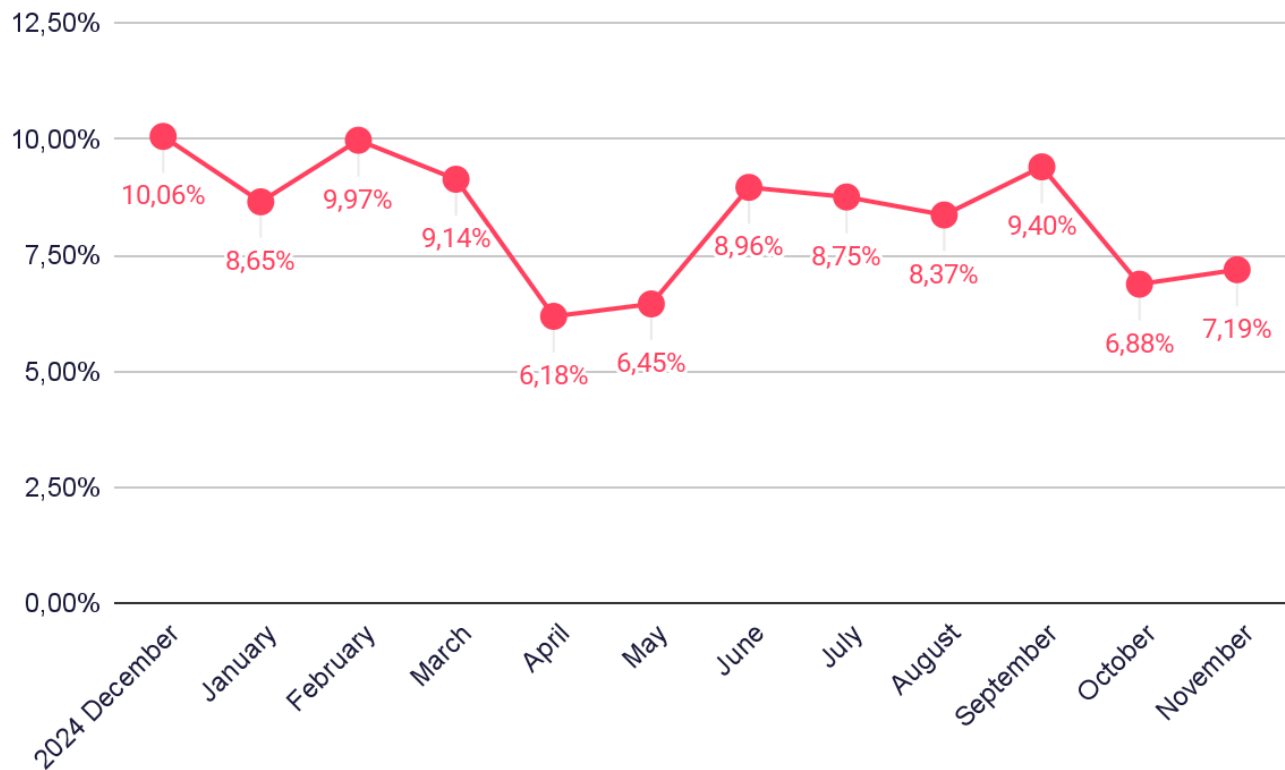
Dark Web pricing data is inherently volatile and subject to variation based on threat actor reputation, negotiation practices, market dynamics, and point-in-time availability. To avoid overstating precision and to ensure clarity, prices in this report are presented as averages or ranges rather than exact figures. We took this approach to reflect underlying market uncertainty while improving readability and supporting intelligence assessments.



## Dark Web Markets

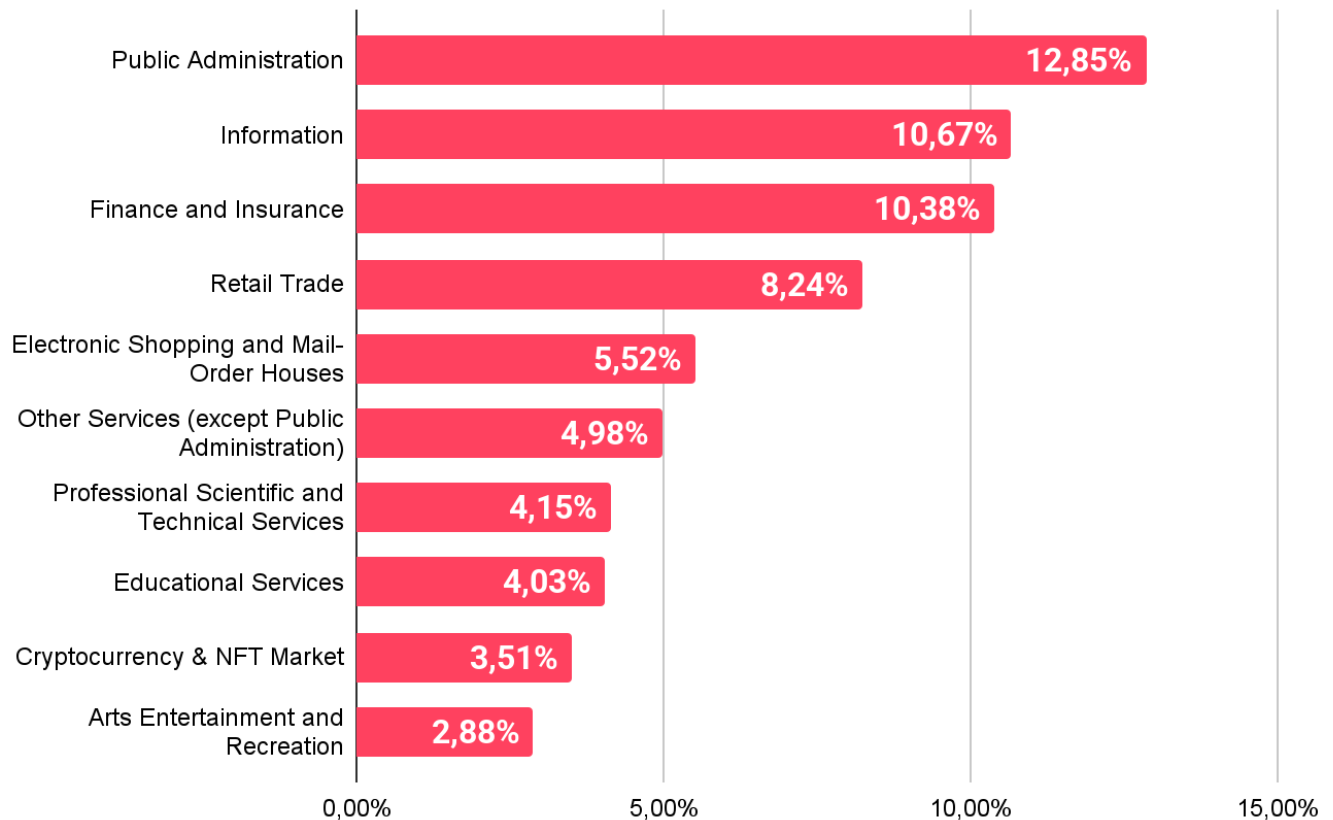
### Dark Web News

#### Time Analysis of Dark Web News



The data for this section was collected through the SOCRadar XTI Platform. Our analysts monitor threat actor activities across various sources, including Dark Web forums and markets, Telegram groups, and ransomware group blog pages.

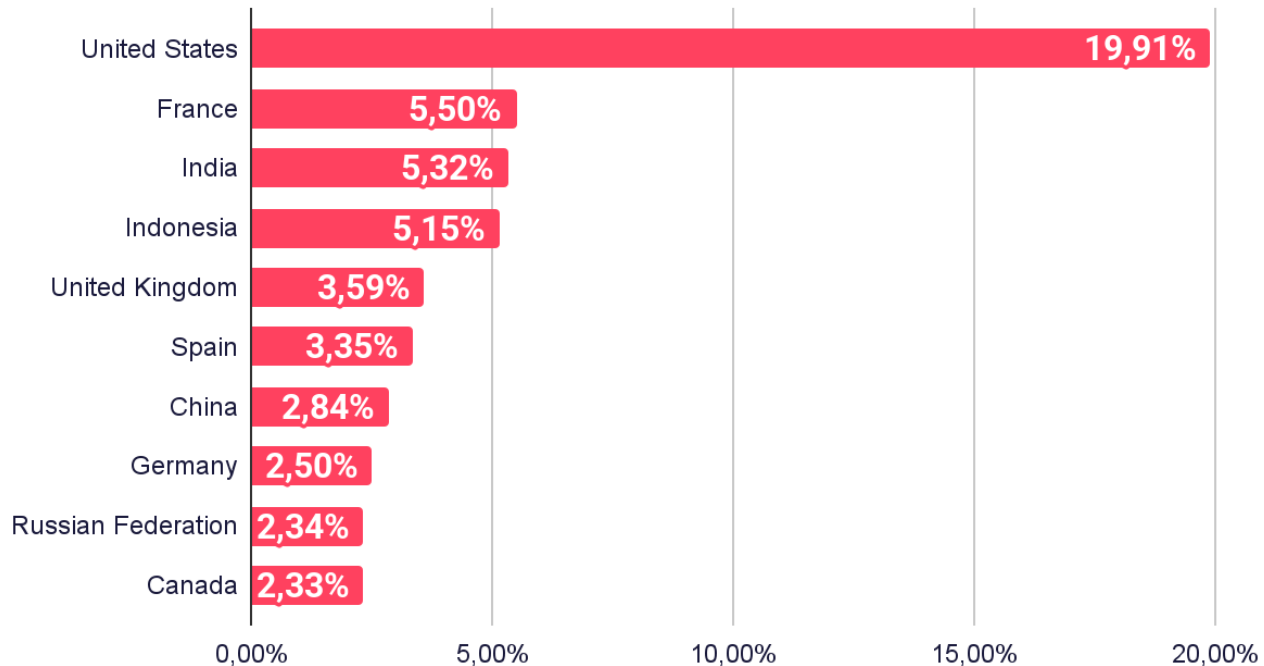
## Distribution of Dark Web Threats by Industry



Posts from Dark Web forums related to Public Administrations account for the largest share of Dark Web news at 12.85%. This shows a sustained interest in government data and access possibilities.

Information, finance, and insurance follow closely, together forming a high value cluster linked to data resale, fraud, and extortion.

## Distribution of Dark Web Threats by Primary Target Country

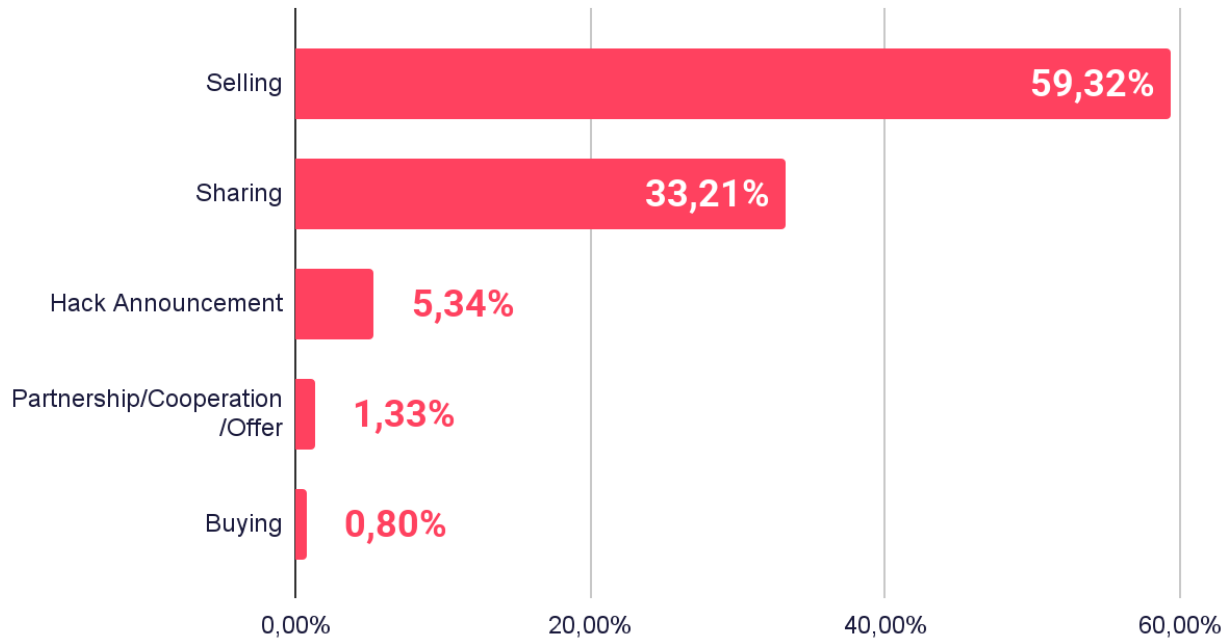


The United States dominates Dark Web news with 19.91%, showing its continued role as the main target for cybercriminal activity. This aligns with its large digital footprint and high value data assets.

France, India, and Indonesia follow at similar levels, which indicates broad targeting across both mature and fast growing digital markets. European countries such as the United Kingdom, Spain, and Germany maintain steady visibility, often linked to data leaks and fraud cases.



## Distribution of Dark Web Threats by Threat Categories

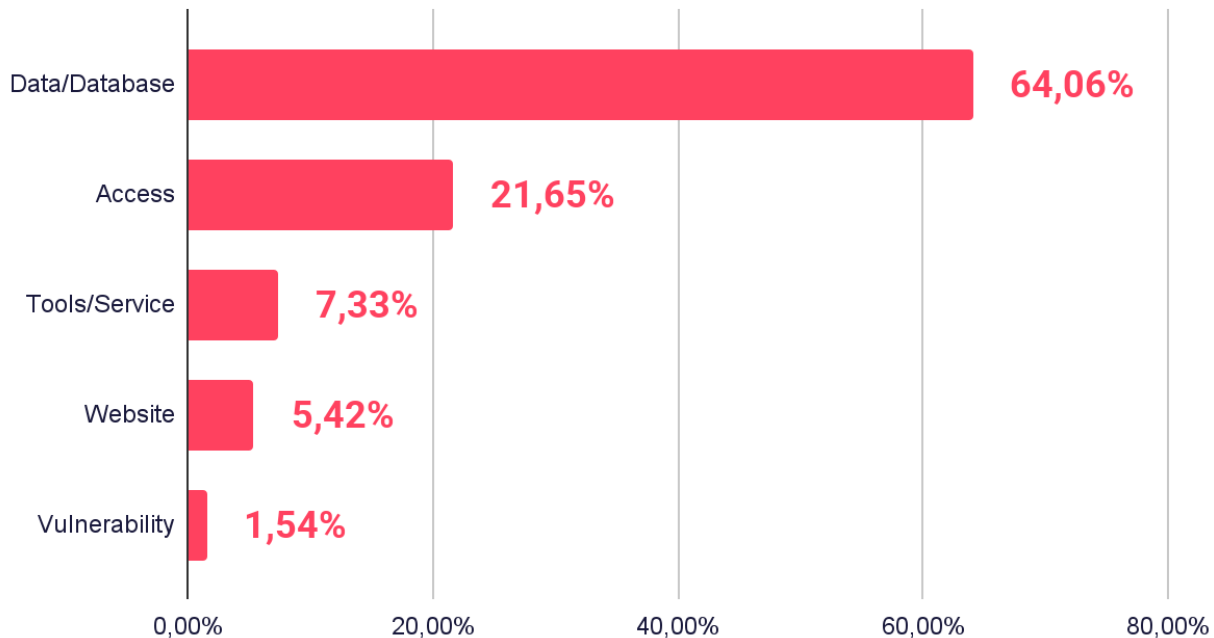


Selling dominates Dark Web news at 59.32%, confirming that most activity is driven by monetization goals.

Sharing follows with 33.21%, which is mostly related to the threat actors trying to build their reputation.

Hack announcements, Partnership posts and Buying activity appear at a marginal level since it is hard to see posts about future plans in general. These types of posts regarding upcoming operations are predominantly detected in Telegram channels where ideology-driven and hacktivist actors are more active.

## Distribution of Dark Web Threats by Threat Type



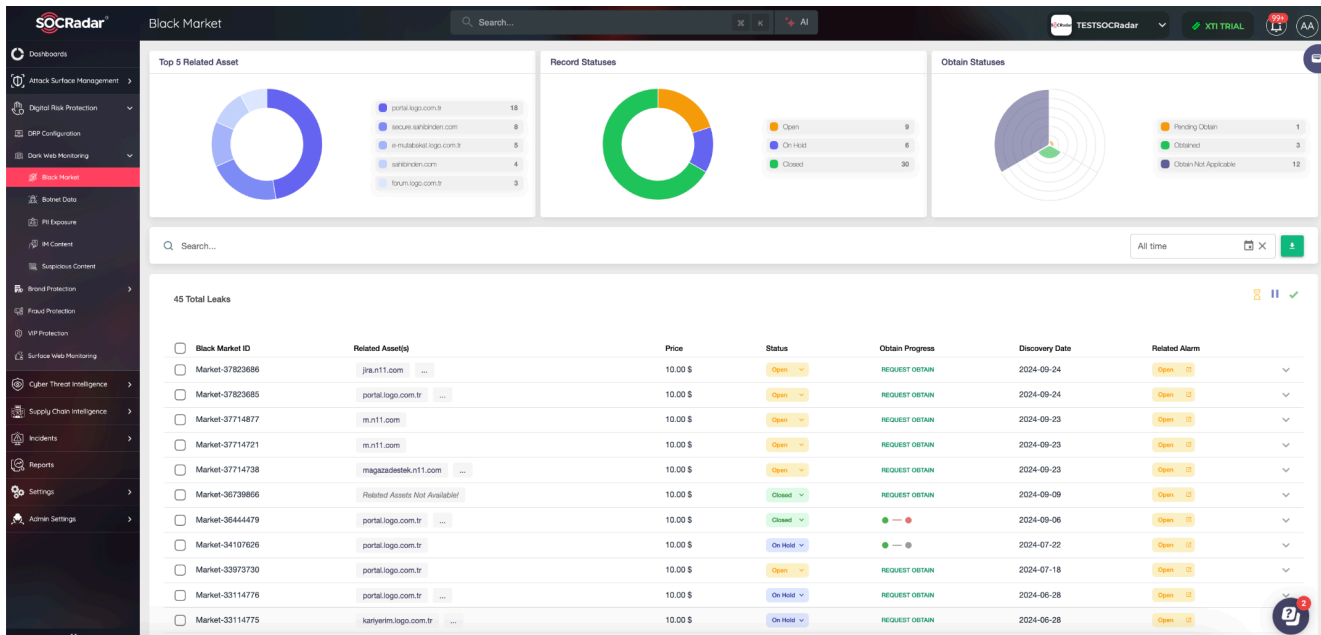
Data and database related threats dominate at 64.06%, showing that data theft remains the primary driver of Dark Web activity.

One reason for this is the ease of proving legitimacy for such claims compared to other illicit goods. Threat actors can share samples as proof to validate their offerings, which is more difficult with other types of goods for various reasons.

Access related threats follow at 21.65%, highlighting strong demand for initial access to networks and systems.

Tools and services, Website related threats and Vulnerability related posts remain limited since these types of products are harder to create.

Overall, the ecosystem prioritizes assets that enable fast monetization.



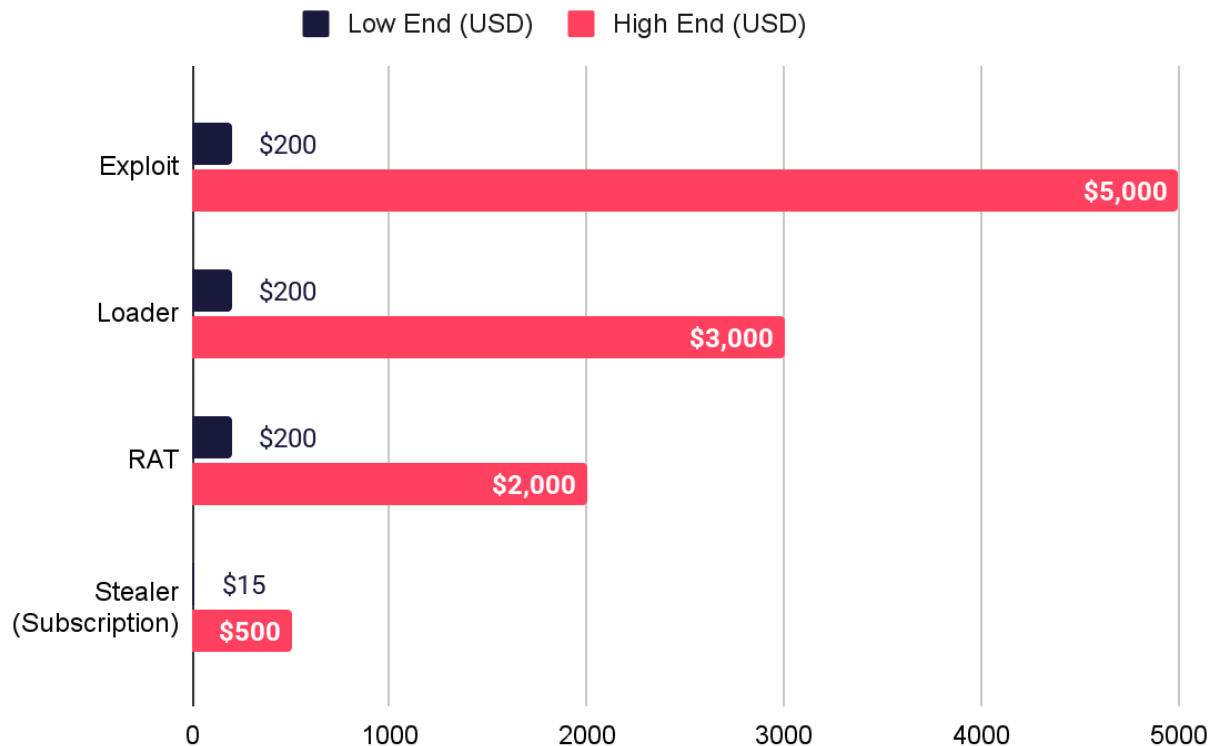
**SOCRadar's Advanced Dark Web Monitoring** equips organizations with vital insights into hidden threats targeting key industries such as finance, insurance, and information technology, which have faced significant risks over the past year. By providing real-time monitoring of underground chatter and sensitive data exposure, SOCRadar empowers proactive defenses against Dark Web threats.

**Activate your free trial today** to safeguard your organization's most valuable assets.



## Malware, Exploits, Tools, Services

### Malicious Software and Tools



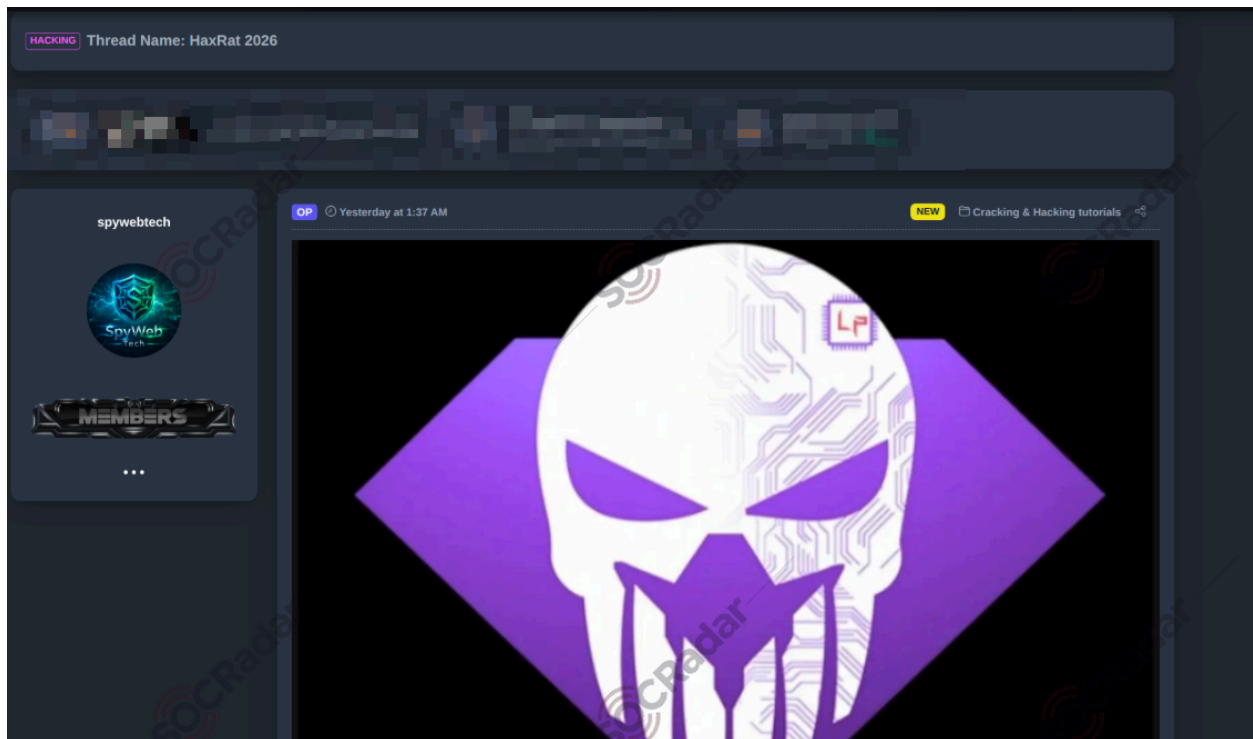
The pricing scale for malicious software and tools shows a wide range that reflects both capability and scale.

Exploits command the highest prices, reaching up to \$5,000 mostly due to their direct impact.

Loaders and RATs remain mid range tools, typically priced between \$200 and \$3,000, which makes them accessible for more threat actors. On the lower end of these types of products, we see threat actors promoting their subscription models.

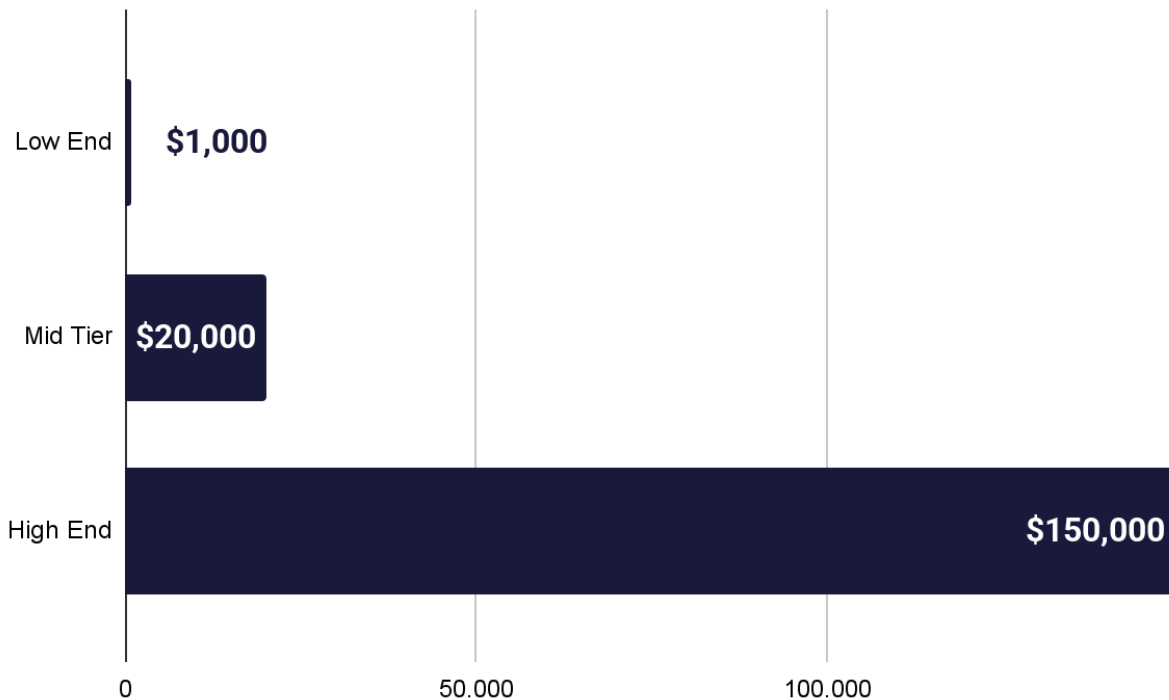
Stealers stand out with an extremely low entry point at \$15, enabling mass adoption and large-scale credential theft. This pricing also applies to stealer logs when purchased in bulk. Posts promoting stealers or stealer logs are predominantly subscription-based, which accounts for the low price point.

Overall, low cost tools continue to lower the barrier to entry for cybercrime.



A Dark Web forum post advertises an Android remote access trojan offering full device surveillance and control. The tool claims features such as screen capture, camera and microphone access, GPS tracking, SMS and call log access, file management, and APK generation, marketed under the guise of penetration testing and device administration.

## 0-Day Market



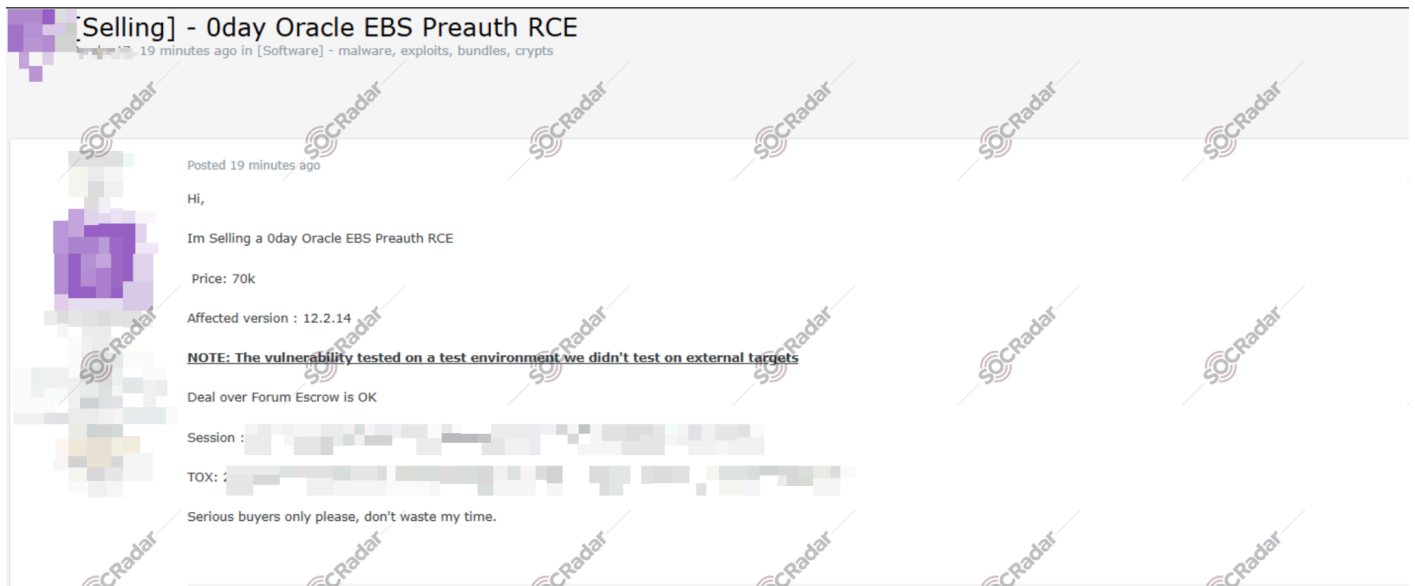
Zero day pricing shows a steep value gradient based on impact and exclusivity.

On the low-end, we can see 0-days start around \$1,000 and are often limited in reliability or scope. Compared to last year, the price for low-end 0-Day posts increased from \$100 to \$1000 level. Zero day posts on that level are very rare now.

Mid tier prices average \$20,000, reflecting usable exploits mostly for common platforms. We see another increase in mid tier as well. Average price for mid-tier 0-Days last year was around \$10,000.

High-end 0-Days can reach \$150,000, targeting widely deployed systems with strong defensive controls. In this tier, we see a decrease compared to last year's \$200,000 level. In reality, there is no upper limit for 0-Days and these numbers only reflect the average.





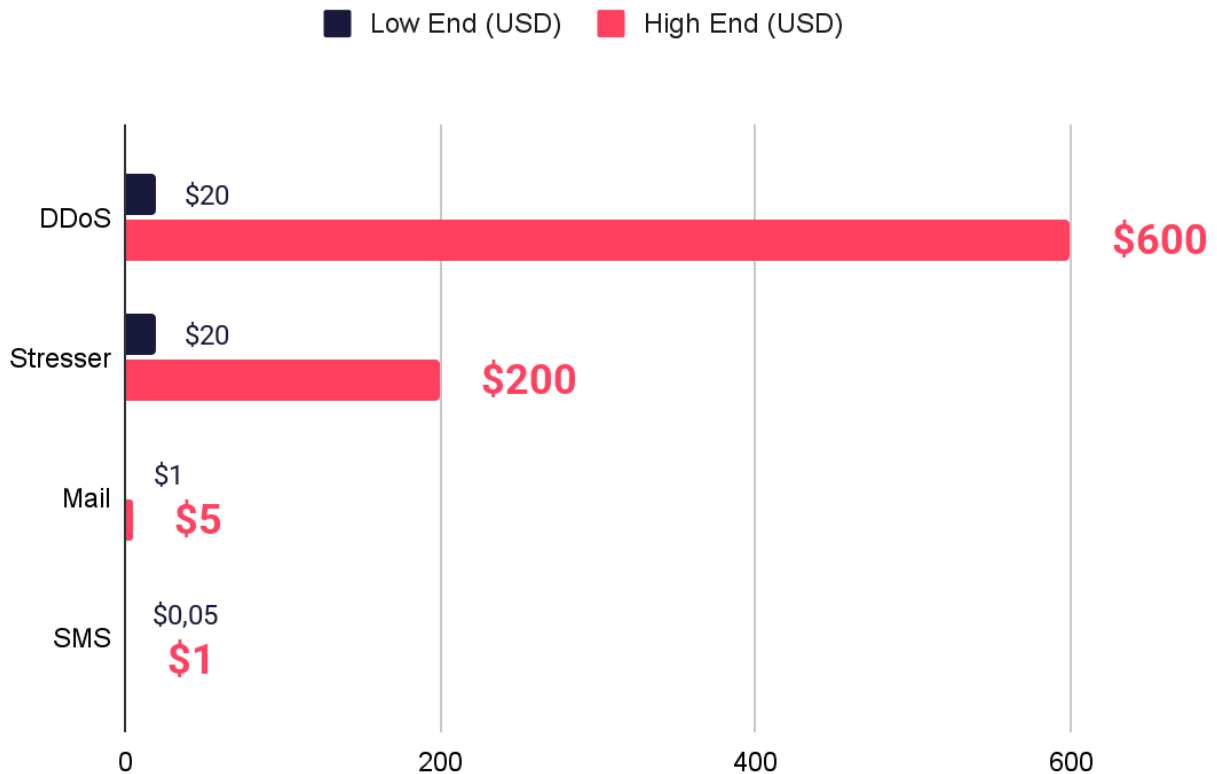
*Sale of a A 0-day vulnerability for Oracle E-Businesses - **SOCRadar Advanced Dark Web Monitoring***

A threat actor offered a 0-day vulnerability affecting Oracle E Business Suite for sale in a Dark Web forum around June 2025 for 70,000 USD.

Later on, around October-November 2025, ClOp ransomware started a **targeted campaign** against companies using Oracle E Business Suite.

This activity is one of the most clear examples of how commercially traded 0-day exploits can move quickly from criminal marketplaces into large scale ransomware operations.

## Spamming and DDoS Services



DDoS and spamming services are priced very low compared to other products, which supports high volume and low skill abuse. The main reason for this is almost all products in this category are subscription based. People can pay weekly or monthly fees for these types of services.

DDoS attacks mostly start at \$20 and reach \$600, making disruption campaigns widely accessible.

Stressers follow a similar range but remain cheaper.

Email services cost as little as \$1, enabling large scale phishing and spam distribution.

SMS services are the cheapest, starting at \$0.05, which lowers the barrier for smishing campaigns.

Overall, low pricing fuels mass activity and increases background noise across networks.

The screenshot shows a forum post for a DDoS service. The header is blue with the text 'We Can Kill WEbsites, Servers | DDoS Service | Order DDoS Attack'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: 'buy ddos', 'ddos', 'ddos attack', 'ddos server', 'ddos service', 'ddos website', and 'order ddos'. A 'Translate to English' button is visible. The main content area has a dark background with a green box containing the text 'DDoS Service' and a 'VERIFIED' badge. Below this are six icons with text: 'Работаем 3+ года' (Working 3+ years), 'Онлайн 24/7' (Online 24/7), 'Низкие цены' (Low prices), 'Гарант +' (Guarantee +), 'Бесплатный тест (5-10 мин)' (Free test (5-10 min)), and 'Без посредников' (Without intermediaries). The text 'We can do ddos attacks on any targets: WEB (clearnet), VPS/VDS, IP-TV, TCP/UDP Applications.' is displayed. Below this is a section 'Why you should to choose our service?' with a bulleted list: 'Always online;', 'Money back is possible (if something went wrong on our side);', 'Free test attack (5-10 minutes);', 'We agree on the escrow;', and 'Round-the-clock monitoring of the attacked target.' A 'Spoiler: Our arsenal' button is present. At the bottom, a 'Prices:' section lists: 'Easy targets — \$75/day, \$500/week, \$2000/month;', 'Middle targets — \$100/day, \$600/week, \$2250/month;', and 'Hard targets — individually.'

We Can Kill WEbsites, Servers | DDoS Service | Order DDoS Attack

Today at 4:24 PM • buy ddos ddos ddos attack ddos server ddos service ddos website order ddos

Translate to English

Today at 4:24 PM

**DDoS Service**

Работаем 3+ года Онлайн 24/7 Низкие цены Гарант + Бесплатный тест (5-10 мин) Без посредников

We can do ddos attacks on any targets: WEB (clearnet), VPS/VDS, IP-TV, TCP/UDP Applications.

Why you should to choose our service?

- Always online;
- Money back is possible (if something went wrong on our side);
- Free test attack (5-10 minutes);
- We agree on the escrow;
- Round-the-clock monitoring of the attacked target.

Spoiler: Our arsenal

Prices:  
Easy targets — \$75/day, \$500/week, \$2000/month;  
Middle targets — \$100/day, \$600/week, \$2250/month;  
Hard targets — individually.

A DDoS service being offered on a Dark Web forum - [SOCradar Advanced Dark Web Monitoring](#)

## Hacking Services



Hacking services are serving the interests of other threat actors. They can get operational support from each other to improve their attacks.

AV disabling is the most expensive service, priced between \$1,000 and \$3,000, which highlights its value in bypassing defenses.

Droppers and malware encryption stay in mid-level, with prices mostly below \$500, supporting repeated campaign use.

When it comes to per-file pricing, Dropper prices go even lower.

## Phishing Kits and Templates

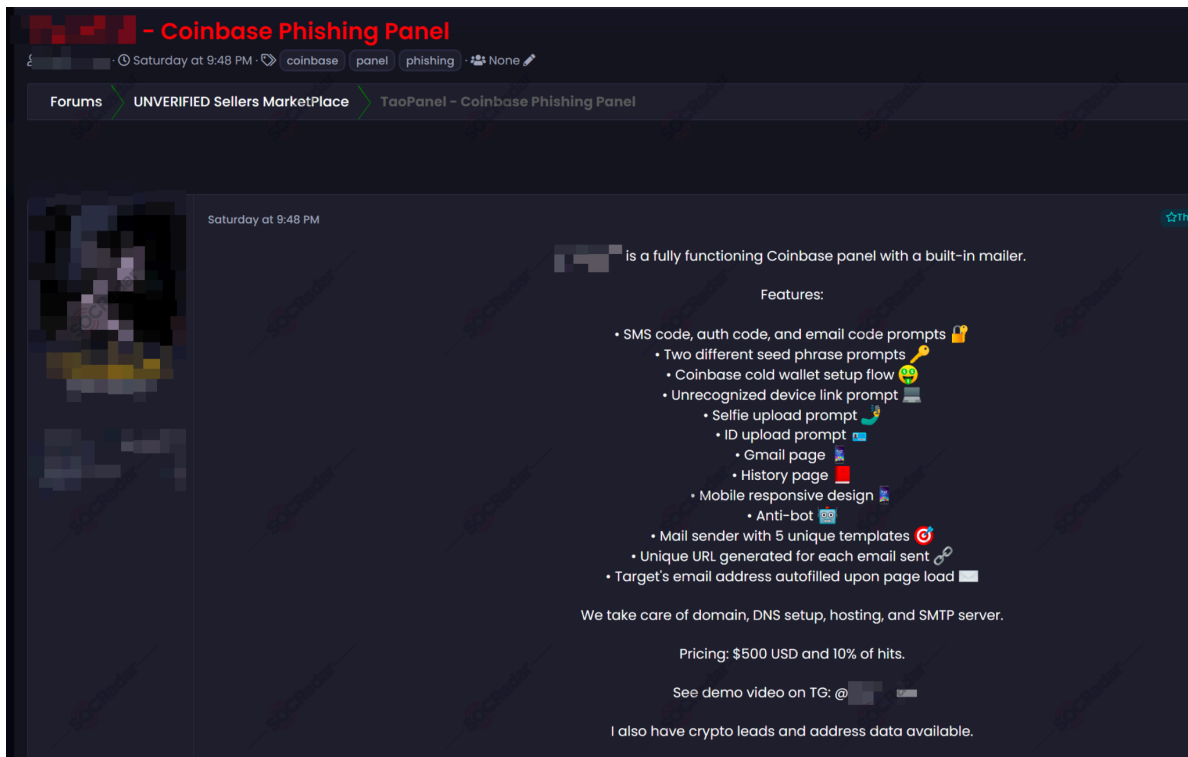


Phishing kits and templates are moderately priced, which supports sustained campaign activity.

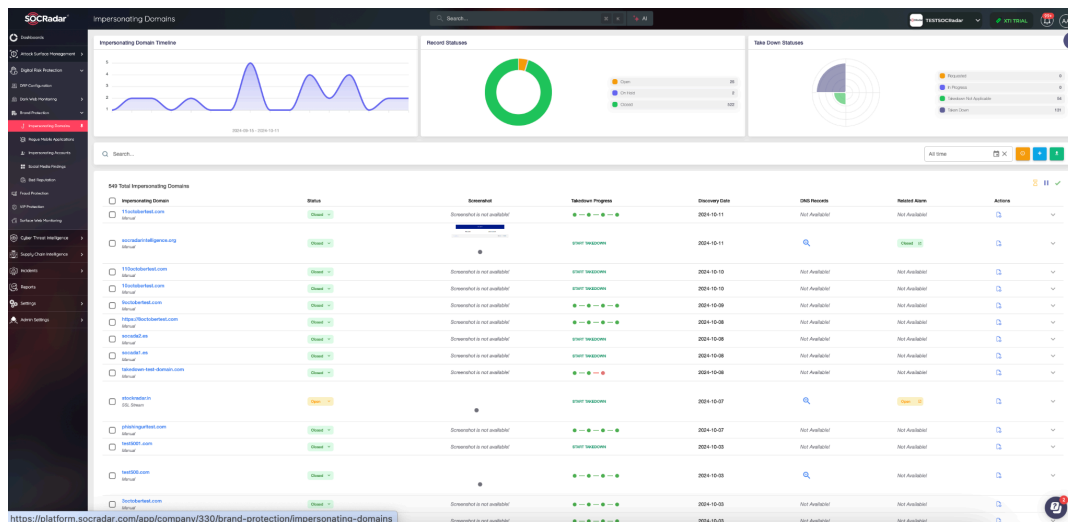
Phishing panels and spoofers range from \$50 to \$500, making them accessible to low skill actors.

Scam pages show the widest range, up to \$2,000, which reflects customization and brand targeting.





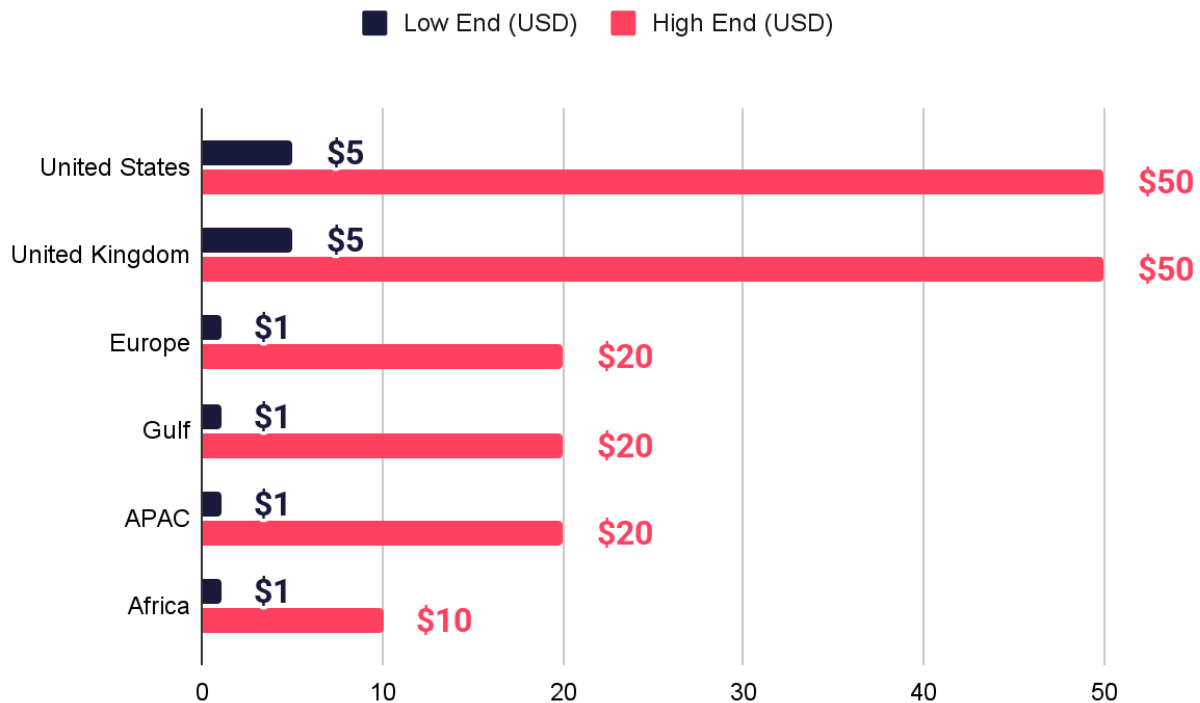
The sale of a sophisticated phishing panel designed to mimic Coinbase's login and security procedures - **SOCRadar Advanced Dark Web Monitoring**



With SOCRadar's AI-powered Phishing Domain Detection module, you can swiftly identify malicious domains and protect your brand from phishing threats. **Start safeguarding your digital presence today with SOCRadar—request a free trial and see the platform in action.**

## Financial Services and Fraud

### Credit Cards

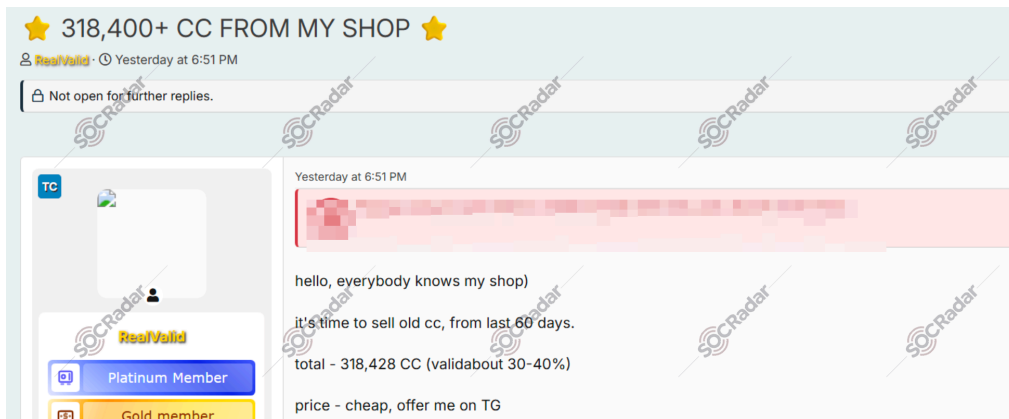


Credit card pricing shows clear regional value differences tied to fraud potential.

United States and United Kingdom cards are the most expensive, ranging from \$5 to \$50, reflecting higher acceptance rates.

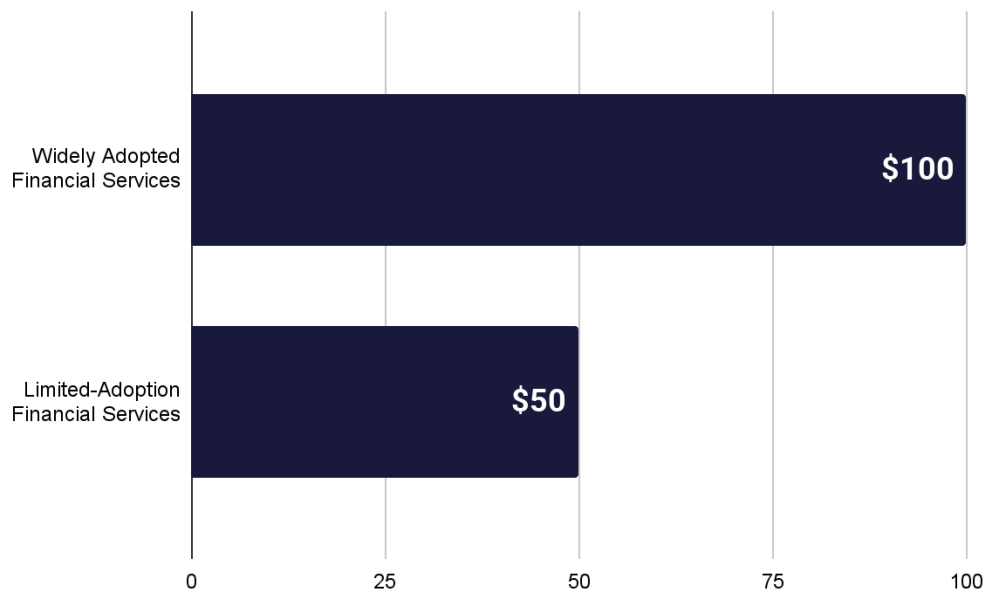
European, Gulf, and APAC cards cluster between \$1 and \$20, indicating moderate demand and mixed usability.

African cards remain the lowest priced, capped at \$10, which suggests limited fraud yield and higher rejection risk.



A potential data sale of approximately 320k credit card details - [SOCradar Advanced Dark Web Monitoring](#)

## Online Payment Accounts (PayPal, Venmo, etc.)



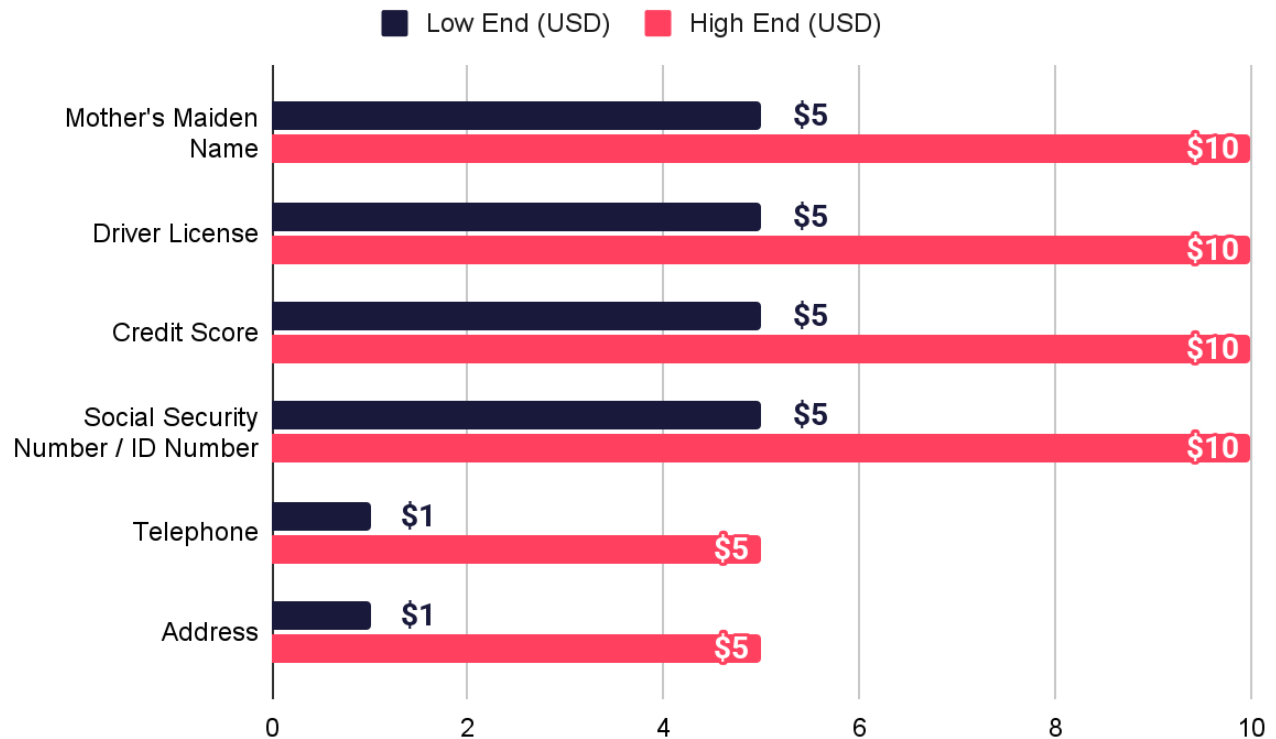
Online payment accounts show clear value differences based on adoption level.

Accounts tied to widely adopted financial services average \$100, reflecting higher trust, broader merchant acceptance, and better fraud utility.

Limited adoption services average \$50, which reduces their appeal for large scale fraud.

“Widely Adopted Financial Services” refers to platforms with large user bases and frequent visibility in illicit marketplaces (for example, PayPal and Revolut), while “Limited-Adoption Financial Services” includes services with smaller or more specialized user populations and less market presence (such as, ZEN and P100).

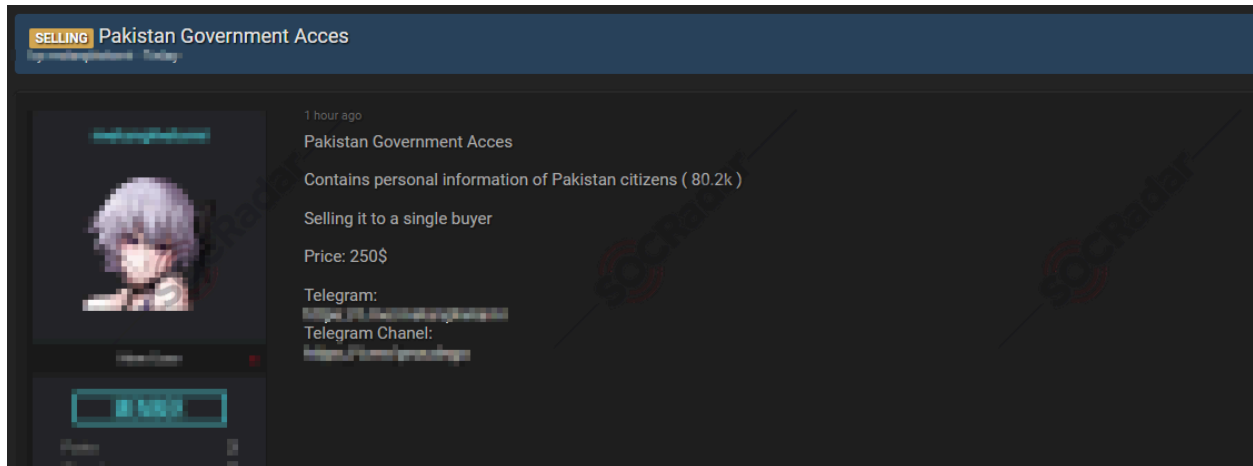
## Personal Information and Documents



Core identity attributes such as mother's maiden name, driver license data, credit score, and national ID numbers are priced between 5 and 10 USD. These fields are more crucial when it comes to identity verification and account takeover.

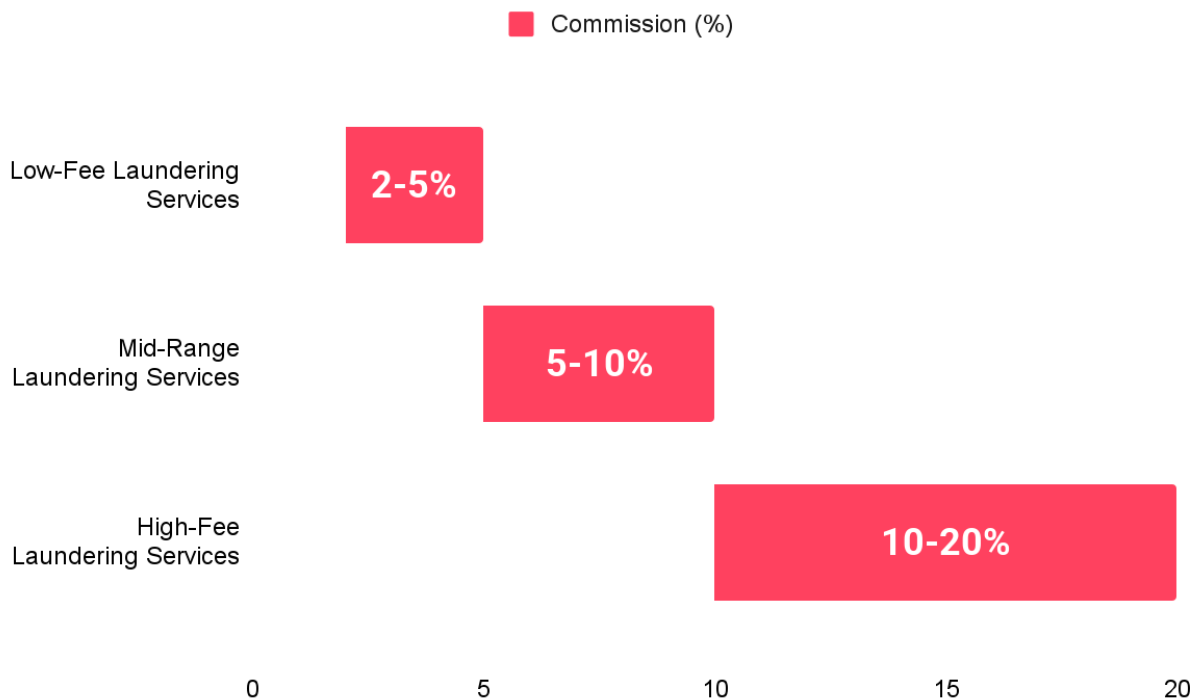
Contact-level data such as telephone numbers and physical addresses are cheaper. We can also include email addresses to this category. Prices for such products range from 1 to 5 USD. These data points are widely available and easier to collect at scale and because of that their standalone value is limited.

It is also important to note that most of these products are sold in bulk.



Unauthorized access sale allegedly belonging to a Pakistani government agency, including personal information of 80.2k Pakistan citizens - [SOCRadar Advanced Dark Web Monitoring](#)

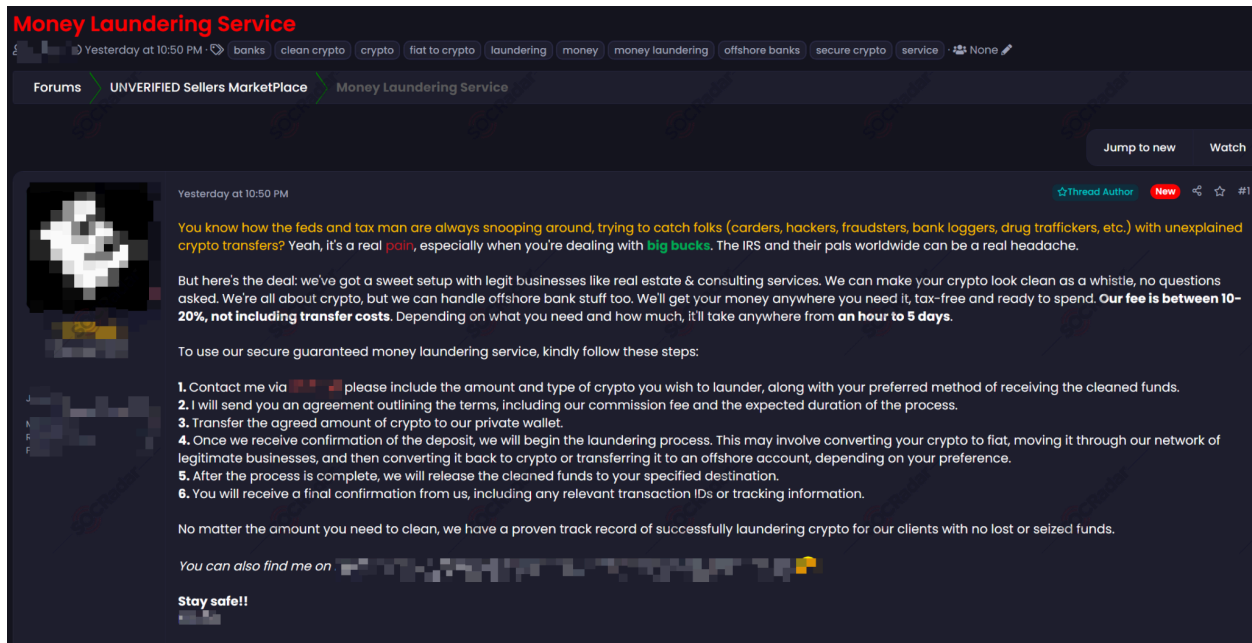
## Money Laundering Services



Money laundering services observed in illicit marketplaces are commonly priced as a percentage of the total amount processed rather than a fixed fee.

We decided to group these services into low-fee (2–5%), mid-range (5–10%), and high-fee (10–20%) categories to reflect differing levels of service complexity, operational risk, and perceived reliability.

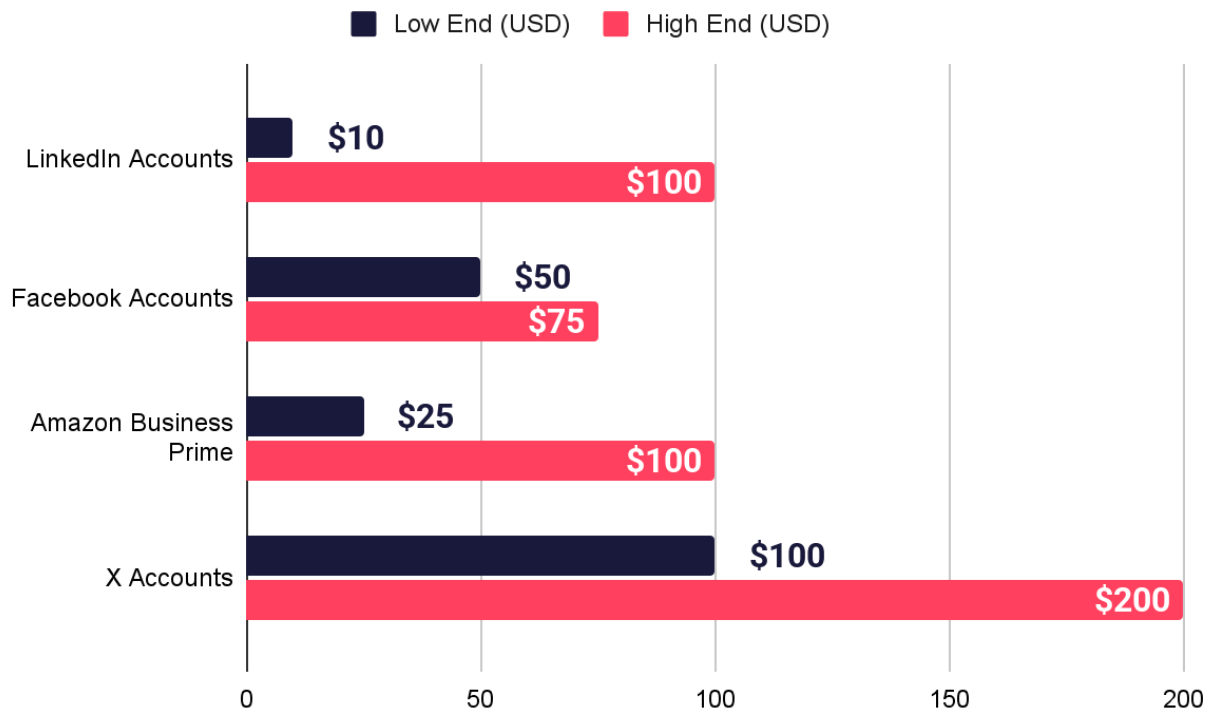
These categories describe pricing structures, not effectiveness or success rates.



Money laundering service advertisement - [SOCRadar Advanced Dark Web Monitoring](#)

## Digital Goods

### Social Media Accounts and Services



The pricing for social media accounts reflects the influence of the platform and accounts' abuse potential.

LinkedIn accounts range from \$10 to \$100, driven by their use in fraud, recruitment scams, and initial access attempts.

Facebook accounts remain consistently valued at \$50 to \$75 due to scale and advertising abuse.

Amazon Business Prime accounts reach up to \$100, reflecting direct financial misuse.

X accounts are the most expensive, priced between \$100 and \$200, due to the platform's popularity. Verified accounts command even higher prices.

## AI Market

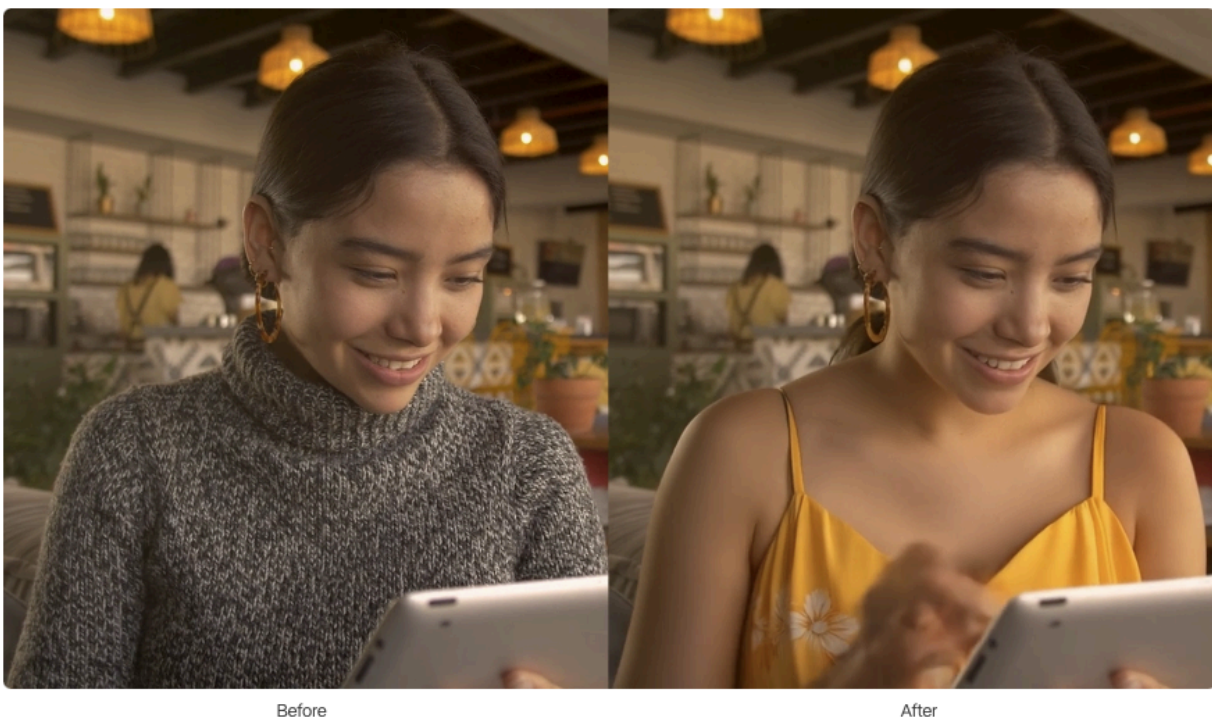
### AI Tools

A major concern since AI tools became popular is their potential misuse. The fear was that publicly available models can generate phishing emails, help threat actors with their malicious intentions, create fake images and so on.

In our Annual Dark Web Report we published last year we assessed that these types of tools remain ineffective compared to the dominant focus on traditional cybercrime tools. However, the AI market has changed quite a bit.

Using these tools still requires little technical expertise. But compared to last year we have a wide range of AI-powered tools that are now openly available for better text generation, image manipulation, voice generation, and coding.

Crucially, there is no vetting, and no engagement with illicit markets to access these tools now. This fundamentally alters the threat landscape which was once restricted to well-resourced actors.



Before

After

Outfit change with [Runway AI](#)



Audio and visual manipulation experienced one of the biggest leaps we saw compared to other fields of AI last year. Open-source and commercial deepfake tools can synthesize realistic faces, voices, and videos using minimal training data.

Though often promoted for entertainment or content creation, they can be repurposed for impersonation, harassment, non-consensual content, or political manipulation. Unfortunately, the lack of effective safeguards or monitoring makes abuse difficult to detect and attribute.



*A fake image of captured Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, [Source](#)*

Cybersecurity and penetration testing tools is another domain where we saw noteworthy development. Freely available AI tools for vulnerability scanning, pentesting, and exploitation are essential for defensive security research, but also provide malicious actors with ready-made capabilities. Critically, none require access to criminal forums or bespoke malware development.



[Top 10 AI-Powered Pentest Tools](#)

Underground markets remain active and continue to traffic in explicitly malicious AI tools. Dark Web forums and encrypted messaging channels facilitate the exchange of jailbroken models, uncensored chatbots, and AI systems with safety guardrails deliberately removed. However, their actual impact and effectiveness remain unclear.



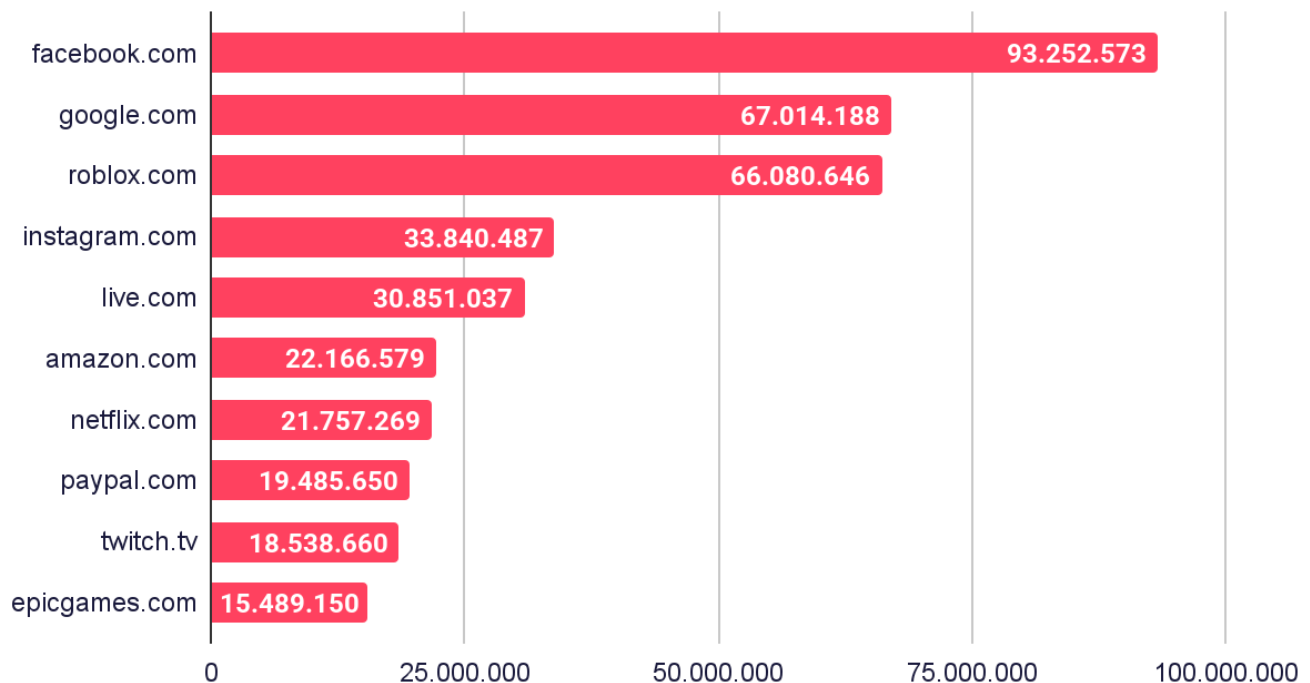
*An AI tool named "LiarAI" being offered for sale on a Dark Web forum - [SOCradar Advanced Dark Web Monitoring](#)*

The example tool, LiarAI, is advertised with capabilities including answering illegal questions, developing exploits and malware at a high level, interacting with the internet and generating images.

Overall, the current situation challenges existing thinking models focused on underground markets for malicious AI tools and raises difficult questions about regulation, platform governance, and responsibility.

# Stealer Logs

## Distribution of Stealer Logs by Domains



Stealer logs show extreme concentration on major consumer platforms. Facebook and Google lead by a wide margin, confirming their value for any type of malicious operation.

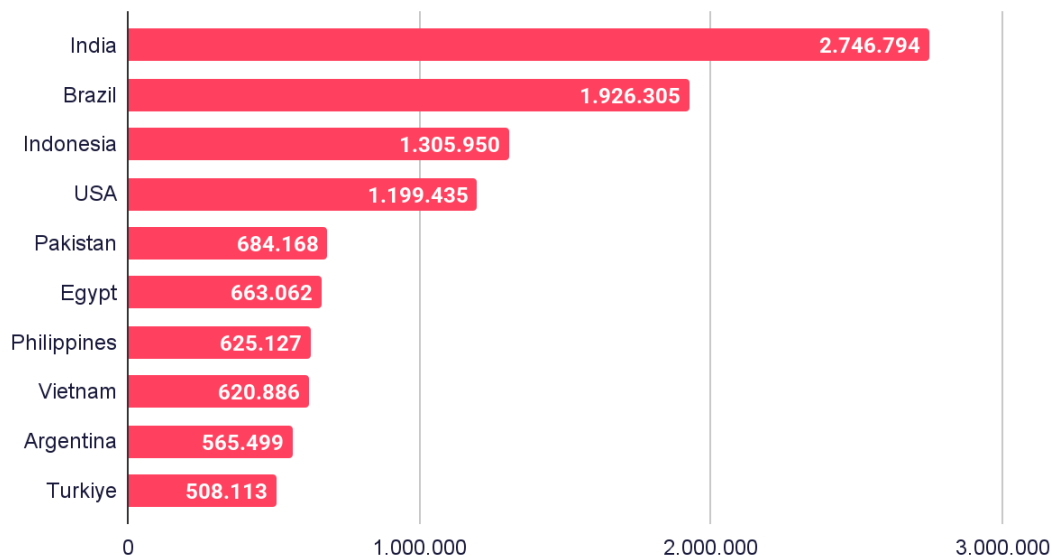
Gaming platforms such as Roblox, Twitch, and Epic Games together make up a high volume, reflecting younger user bases and weak credential hygiene.

E-commerce and streaming services, including Amazon and Netflix, remain attractive due to stored payment data and account resale value in other markets.

PayPal stands out as a direct fraud enabler rather than a secondary asset.

Overall, stealer activity focuses on platforms that combine scale, credential reuse, and immediate monetization paths across multiple fraud types.

## Distribution of Stealer Logs by Country



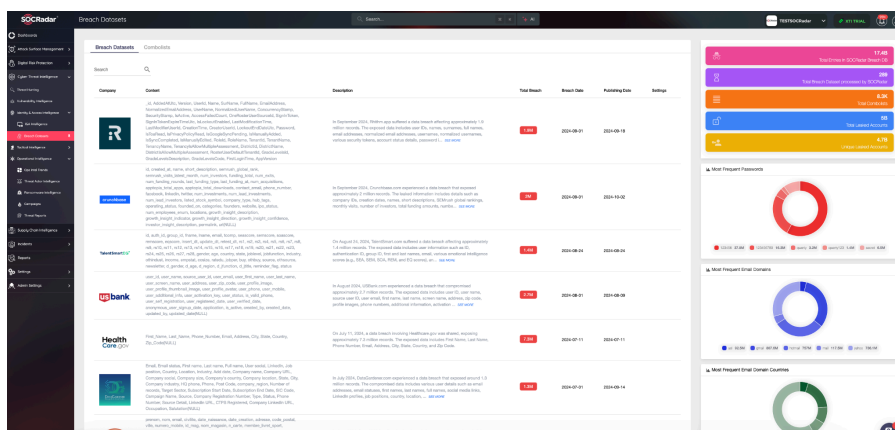
Stealer logs are heavily concentrated in emerging and densely populated markets.

India leads by a wide margin, which points to large scale malware spread and high credential reuse.

Brazil and Indonesia follow, showing similar exposure driven by consumer platforms and low endpoint protection.

The United States appears lower than expected, which suggests better detection or faster remediation rather than lower infection rates.

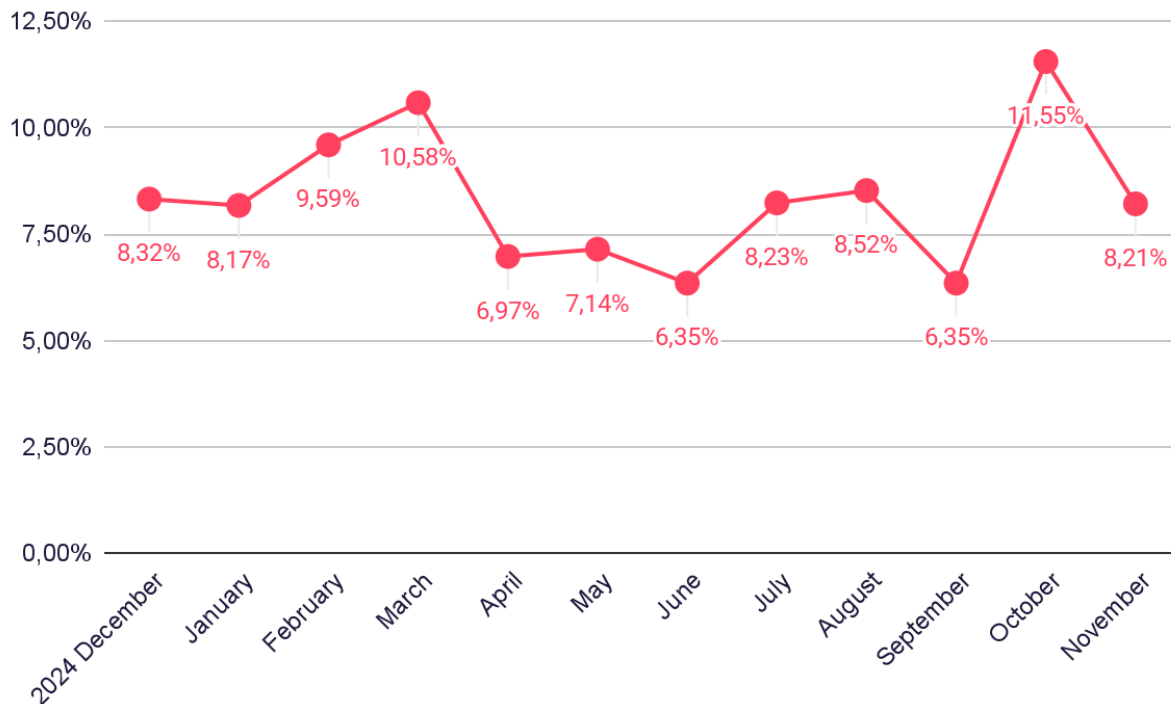
Overall, we see a stealer activity correlates with user scale and software piracy.



**SOCRadar's Identity & Access Intelligence Module** can detect stealers on your devices and identify their location, facilitating a secure working environment. Changing passwords without eliminating stealers is insufficient to secure your organization, as it will only provide new passwords to threat actors.

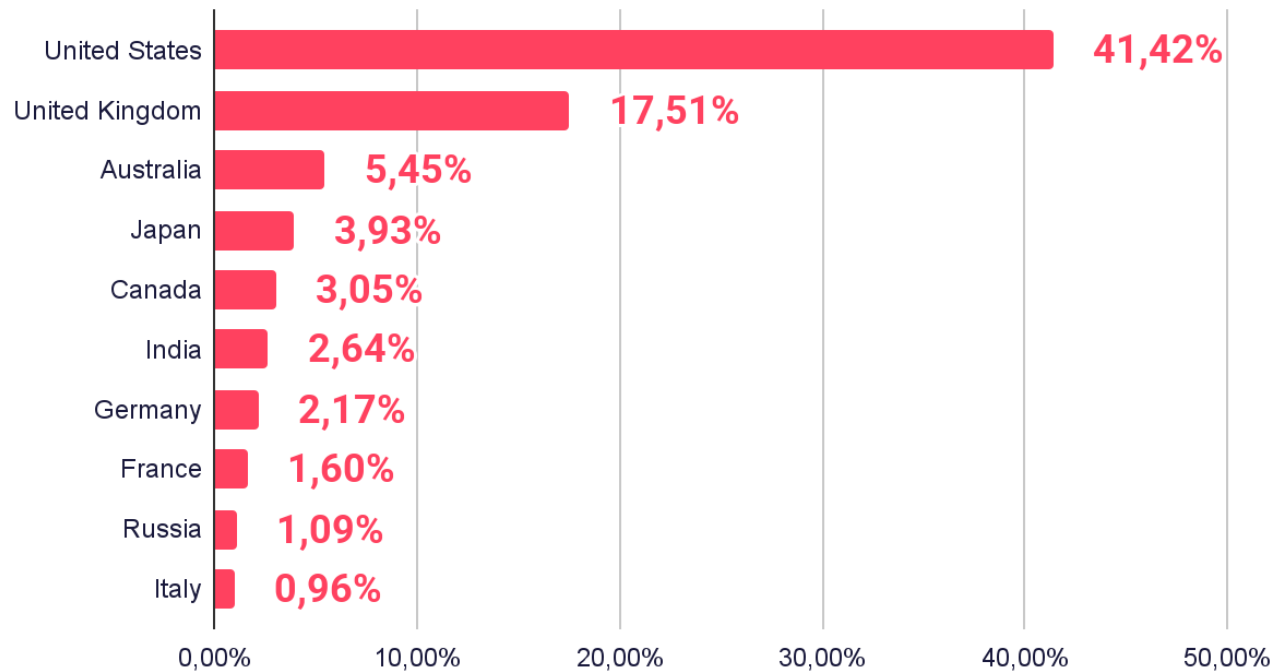
# Ransomware Threat Landscape

## Time Analysis of Ransomware Attacks



We've scoured ransomware groups' blog sites, leak sites, and Telegram channels to compile a trove of valuable information.

## Distribution of Ransomware Attacks by Affected Country

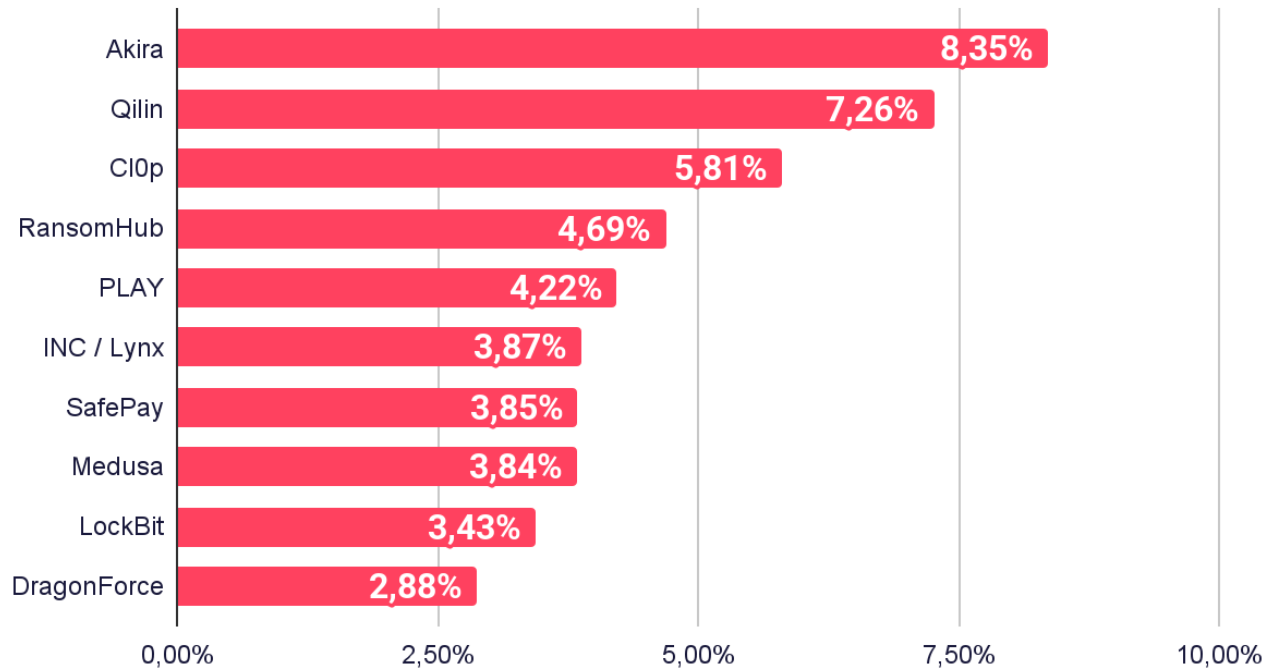


The United States is the primary ransomware target with 41.42% of observed attacks, reflecting its high concentration of large organizations and strong ransom payment capacity.

Australia and Japan show moderate exposure, often linked to critical services and manufacturing.

Overall, attackers focus on countries with payment potential.

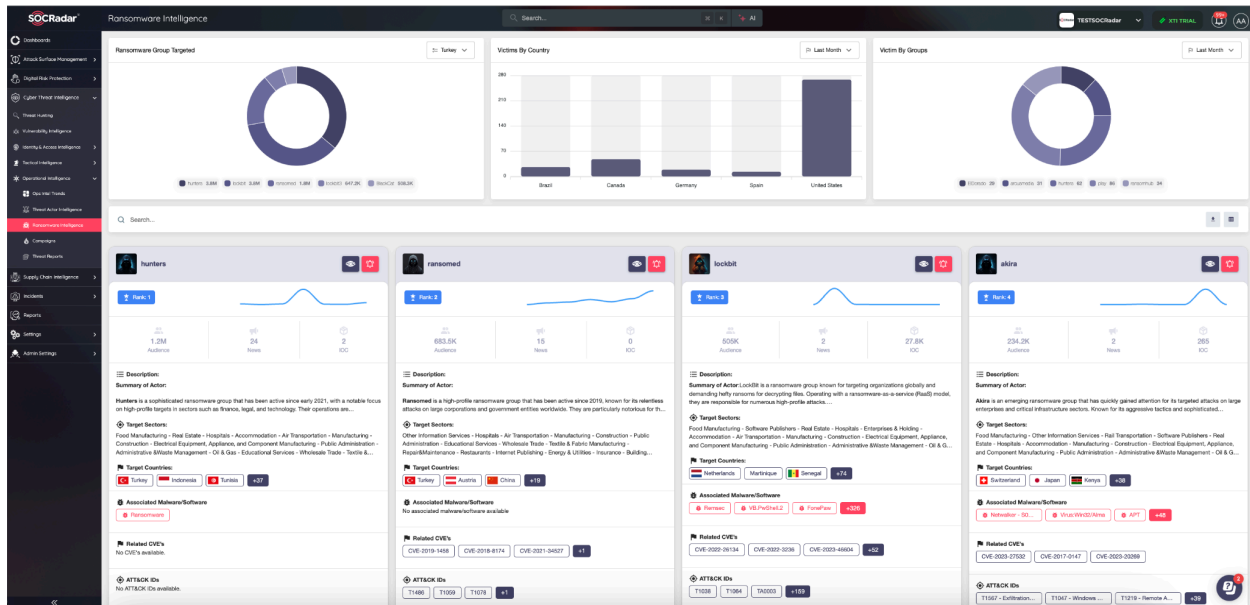
## Most Active Ransomware Groups



Akira leads ransomware activity with 8.35% while Qilin and Cl0p follow closely, showing continued effectiveness in high impact campaigns and data extortion.

Top 10 actors make up almost half of ransomware incidents in 2025. This indicates a fragmented but competitive ecosystem.

This distribution among many groups increases unpredictability and complicates security efforts.



**Explore SOCRadar's Ransomware Intelligence module** and gain comprehensive insights with detailed group profiles, MITRE Visualizer, and actionable IOCs. These insights will empower you to stay ahead of evolving threats and enhance your cybersecurity strategy.



# Who is SOCRadar?

SOCRadar provides Extended Threat Intelligence (XTI) that combines: **"Cyber Threat Intelligence, Brand Protection, External Attack Surface Management, and Dark Web Radar Services."** SOCRadar provides the actionable and timely intelligence context you need to manage the risks in the transformation era.

Trusted by  
**21.000+** companies  
in **150+** countries

**Dark Web Monitoring:** SOCRadar's fusion of its unique Dark Web recon technology with the human analyst eye further provides in-depth insights into financially-targeted APT groups and the threat landscape.

**Protecting Customers' PII:** Scan millions of data points on the surface, deep and Dark Web to accurately identify the leakage of your customers' Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in compliance with regulations.

**Credit Card Monitoring:** Enhance your fraud detection mechanisms with automation speed by identifying stolen credit card data on popular global black markets, carding forums, social channels, and chatters.

**360-Degree Visibility:** Achieve digital resilience by maintaining internet-facing digital asset inventory. Significantly accelerate this process by automated discovery, mapping, and continuous asset monitoring.

**GET ACCESS FOR FREE**

**START YOUR FREE TRIAL**

Discover SOCRadar's powerful tools and easy-to-use interface to enhance cyber threat intelligence efforts. Schedule a demo with our experts to see it in action, and we'll show you what SOCRadar can do.

