

CONCENTRIC

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

TraCR REPORT

TRAVEL CYBERSECURITY RISK



Risk Level: High

Updated: April 2022

REGION RISKS

Due to a lack of adequate cyber protections, a sharp rise in malware attacks, and a rapid digital transformation of the region's economies, countries in the Middle East and North Africa present a high risk of cybercrime for travelers. This risk is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to a loss of jobs and low economic growth, opening up opportunities for cyber criminals.

- Targeted ransomware attacks are often launched against corporations.
- State-sponsored entities steal travel information and mobile data.
- Government-led intelligence agencies' surveillance of social media platforms has resulted in the arrest of foreign individuals.
- Hackers masquerading as a trusted acquaintance conduct phishing attacks.
- Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, and Qatar have experienced a sharp rise in malware attacks since early 2021.
- Terrorist organizations and non-state actors supported by Iran are increasing their cyber capabilities
- The Iranian government engages in website defacement, spear phishing, distributed denial-of-service attacks, theft of personal information, and attacks intended to cause physical consequences. Tehran has jailed individuals for posting online content it deemed subversive.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT BECOMING A VICTIM OF A CYBER CRIME WHILE TRAVELING?

DO...

- Contact Concentric to help conduct risk assessment to determine vulnerabilities
- Enroll in a PII removal service, such as [Concentric360*](#)
- Consider buying burner cellular devices

DO NOT...

- Leave Bluetooth and Wi-Fi enabled
- Advertise your travel on social media
- Travel with personal devices
- Connect to public Wi-Fi at hotels, airports and cafes using personal devices

HOW CAN YOU DETECT IF YOU HAVE BECOME A VICTIM OF A CYBER CRIME WHILE TRAVELING?

- Install an antivirus application
- Perform manual scans of suspected malicious files/downloads
- Enable login notifications
- Add a fraud alert to your credit card and credit report

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE BECOME A VICTIM OF A CYBER CRIME WHILE TRAVELING?

- 1 Containment. Delete the virus source, disconnect from Wi-Fi, and change all passwords.
- 2 Remediation. Wipe devices and inform stakeholders, by phone, an incident has occurred.
- 3 Recovery. Restore data from backups if your device was wiped or stolen.
- 4 Assessment. Determine what can be done in the future to prevent further incidents.

CONTACT CONCENTRIC 24/7 IF YOU NEED ANY URGENT ASSISTANCE OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

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*Concentric360 is a data management solution that removes sensitive personal information (PII) from the internet. In the wrong hands, personal information can be used to stalk, doxx and profile you. The less this information can be found online, the more privacy and security you have. For more information, please inquire with your Concentric contact.