

Evolution of the Threat

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Information is power.

But information is not what it used to be.

Today information is almost always accessed via technology. And taking information online makes it vulnerable to attacks.

Historic conflicts were centered on geography. People were fighting over land and riches. If you wanted to get piece of the action, you had to be there.

On the internet, there is no such a thing as 'distance'. There are no borders. Information can be accessed from anywhere in the world – and it can be attacked from anywhere in the world.

Taking information online also means that it can be stolen from anywhere in the world.

Spying is about collecting information. When information was still written on pieces of paper, a spy had to physically go and steal it. These days information is data on computers and networks, so modern spying is carried out with the help of malware. The cyber spies use trojans and backdoors to infect their targets' computers, giving them access to the data even from the other side of the world.

Who spends money on spying? Companies and countries do. When companies do it, it's called industrial espionage. When countries do it, it's just espionage.

The most effective method to protect data against cyber attacks and cyber spying is to process confidential information on dedicated computers that are not connected to the Internet. Critical infrastructure should be isolated from public networks. And isolation does not mean a firewall: it means being disconnected.

Yes: being disconnected is painful, complicated and expensive. But it's also safe.

Just take it offline.