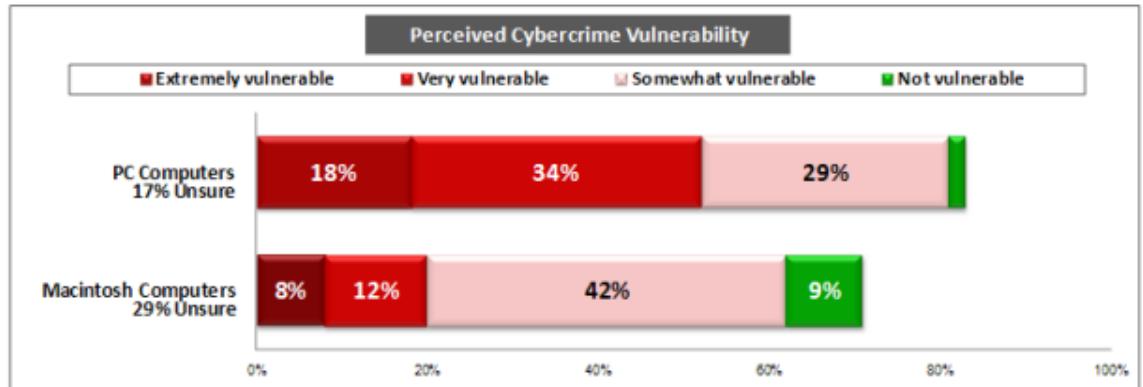




PCs or MACs: Which are Safer?



What Makes Netbooks GREAT!

1. They're cheap! They usually cost approximately \$299.
2. You can now get netbooks with 11 and 12 inch display screens.
3. Netbooks screens are less likely to scratch because they have a clamshell design.
4. They're lightweight.
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Recently ESET commissioned Competitive Edge Research and Communications, Inc. to conduct a study about attitudes, beliefs, and experiences of Americans with respect to cybercrime. One of the findings is that most American's are not aware that cybercrime is linked to organized crime. Malware has become a tool of the organized crime.

Both PC and Mac users perceive the Mac as being safer, but the statistics show that Mac users are victims of cybercrime just as frequently as PC users. The most probable explanation for this would be confusing viruses as being cybercrime. 57% of Mac users feel it is safe to use their computers without antivirus software where only 27% of PC users feel it is safe to do so. Much of the losses associated with cybercrime are related to phishing attacks. Phishing attacks are just as effective on Macs, Linux, Windows, Solaris, and any operating system since they rely on tricking the user and not upon malicious software or any software vulnerabilities. The Mac offers no immunity to phishing attacks and so we see a virtually equal percentage of victim representation across the board.

A significant part of the phishing problem is ignorance. The survey found that less than 50% of Americans even know what phishing is.

An interesting finding was that it appears that when a Mac user is a victim of phishing they tend to lose more money on average than a PC user. I'm not ready to proclaim this as fact since we can't explain the finding, but that was the undeniable trend found by this specific study.

With respect to online banking, 84% of the general public feels it is at least somewhat safe to bank online. When you look at the reasons given for not banking online then you see that well of over half of those people who shun online banking do so because of security concerns.

Of note, we did find a lower rate of cybercrime victims among people who use both a Mac and a PC. This is probably due to a higher level of computer and internet knowledge. Being educated to the threats and defenses is a quite effective in decreasing the odds of a user becoming a victim of cybercrime.

SOURCE: ESET - <http://www.eset.com/threat-center/blog/2009/11/16/once-upon-a-cybercrime%E2%80%A6>