



On September 7, the **Cyber Threat Alert Level** was evaluated and is remaining at **Blue (Guarded)** due to vulnerabilities in Google products.
[CIS Security Advisories](#)

Threat Level's explained

- **GREEN or LOW** indicates a low risk.
- **BLUE or GUARDED** indicates a general risk of increased hacking, virus, or other malicious activity.
- **YELLOW or ELEVATED** indicates a significant risk due to increased hacking, virus, or other malicious activity that compromises systems or diminishes service.
- **ORANGE or HIGH** indicates a high risk of increased hacking, virus, or other malicious cyber activity that targets or compromises core infrastructure, causes multiple service outages, causes multiple system compromises, or compromises critical infrastructure.
- **RED or SEVERE** indicates a severe risk of hacking, virus, or other malicious activity resulting in widespread outages and/or significantly destructive compromises to systems with no known remedy or debilitates one or more critical infrastructure sectors.

WEEKLY IT SECURITY BULLETIN

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In The News This Week

Transparency and policy shapes Cloudflare's Kiwi Farms decisions

Cloudflare's blocking of hate-based forum Kiwi Farms is the latest in a string of controversial actions and inactions around bad behaving customers. Agree or disagree, the company has stuck to its policy throughout. Cloudflare percolated back into the news cycle last week when the company, which provides security services to websites, blocked Kiwi Farms as a client. Kiwi Farms has a reputation as being the worst trolling site on the internet, where individuals meet to collate and create action plans targeting individuals for both online and physical harassment including doxing and swatting (taking action that results in a police SWAT team arriving at a given address to neutralize the reported threat to life). Social networks were aflame with calls for Cloudflare to cease providing their services to Kiwi Farms. Indeed, a recent Vice article highlighted [the case of Clara Sorrenti](#), also known as Keffals, an online streamer who has been doxed multiple times and was arrested on August 5 amidst a raid on her home as a result of swatting, highlighted how there have been at least three cases of individuals committing suicide as a result of the targeted harassment received as a result of the actions taking place on Kiwifarms. [Read the full article by Christopher Burgess here: CSQ](#)

Holiday Inn hotels hit by cyber-attack

Holiday Inn owner, Intercontinental Hotels Group (IHG), has confirmed the company has been hit by a cyber-attack. - IHG, which has some of the world's largest hotel chains, issued a statement saying it was investigating "unauthorised access" to a number of its technology systems. The UK-based company said its "booking channels and other applications" had been disrupted since Monday. It manages the Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza and Regent hotels. "IHG is working to fully restore all systems as soon as possible," the company said. IHG confirmed it was assessing the nature, extent and impact of the incident and had implemented its response plans, including appointing external specialists to investigate the breach. In a statement, the company said: "We will be supporting hotel owners and operators as part of our response to the ongoing service disruption. IHG's hotels are still able to operate and to take reservations directly." But many people trying to book accommodation have been complaining. [Read the full story by Shiona McCallum here: BBC News](#)

TikTok denies security breach after hackers leak user data, source code

TikTok denies recent claims it was breached, and source code and user data were stolen, telling BleepingComputer that data posted to a hacking forum is "completely unrelated" to the company. On Friday, a hacking group known as 'AgainstTheWest' created a topic on a hacking forum claiming to have breached both TikTok and WeChat. The user shared screenshots of an alleged database belonging to the companies, which they say was accessed on an Alibaba cloud instance containing data for both TikTok and WeChat users. The threat actor says this server holds **2.05 billion records in a massive 790GB database** containing user data, platform statistics, software code, cookies, auth tokens, server info, and many more. While the name AgainstTheWest may sound like the hacking group is targeting Western countries, the threat actors claim to only target countries and companies hostile to Western interests. "Don't let the name confuse you, ATW targets countries they perceive to be a threat to western society, currently they are targeting China and Russia and have plans to target North Korea, Belarus and Iran in the future," explains cybersecurity researcher CyberKnow.

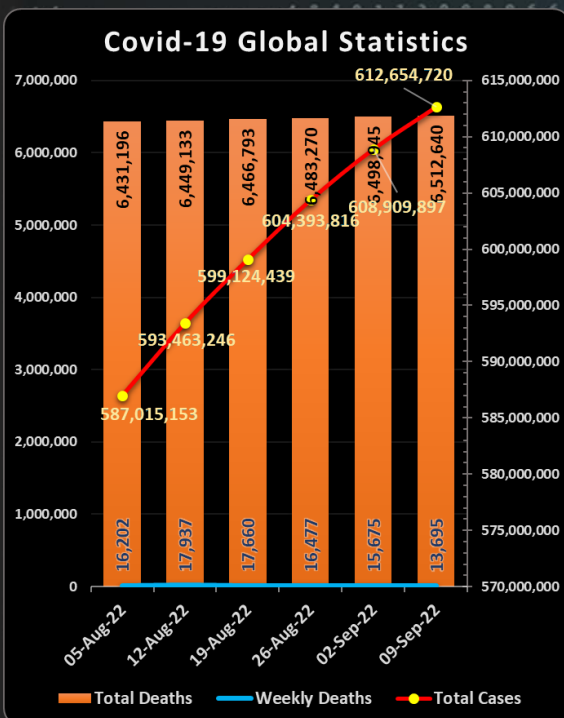
TikTok has told BleepingComputer that the claims of the company being hacked are false. Furthermore, the company said the source code shared on hacking forums isn't part of its platform. TikTok also told us that the leaked user data could not result from a direct scraping of its platform, as they have adequate security safeguards to prevent automated scripts from collecting user information. BleepingComputer has also reached out to WeChat for a statement, but we have not yet received a response from them... [Read the rest by Bill Toulas here: BleepingComputer](#)

Albania severs diplomatic ties with Iran over cyber-attack

Albania has severed diplomatic ties with Iran and ordered Iranian embassy staff to leave, accusing it of orchestrating a major cyber-attack. - Prime Minister Edi Rama said a probe had found "incontrovertible evidence" that Iran "hired four groups to mount the attack on Albania" on 15 July. The hackers tried to paralyse public services, delete and steal government data, and incite chaos, he added. In response, Iran rejected Mr Rama's claims as "baseless." Its foreign ministry condemned the decision to expel its diplomats as "anti-Iranian" and suggested in a statement that "third parties" may have been involved in coming up with the accusations, Iran's state news agency reported. Albania's leader described the decision as "extreme" but said it was "entirely forced on us". The United States said it strongly condemned the cyber-attack on a Nato ally and vowed to hold Iran accountable for actions that threatened Albania's security. Relations between Tirana and Tehran have been tense since Albania offered asylum to thousands of Iranian dissidents... [Read the full article by David Gritten here: BBC News](#)

Anonymous hacked Yandex taxi causing a massive traffic jam in Moscow

The popular collective Anonymous and the IT Army of Ukraine hacked the Yandex Taxi app causing a massive traffic jam in Moscow. - This week Anonymous announced to have hacked the Yandex Taxi app, the largest taxi service in Russia, and used it to cause a massive traffic jam in Moscow. The threat actors ordered all available taxis to a particular address. The traffic jam took place in the center of the Russian city on September 1st, 2022, dozens of taxis were sent by the hacktivists to the address on Kutuzovsky Prospekt, one of the main avenues in Moscow. Anonymous told [Hackread.com](#) that the hack was carried out in cooperation with the IT Army of Ukraine. Due to the attack, one of the main streets of Moscow was completely blocked for more than two hours. "On the morning of September 1, Yandex Taxi encountered an attempt by attackers to disrupt the service — several dozen drivers received bulk orders to the Fili region," the press service noted. "Due to fake orders, drivers spent about 40 minutes in a traffic jam," reported Forbes Russia. The Yandex-owned company stated that its security department immediately blocked the intruder and halted the fake taxi requests, however, the hack has caused a traffic jam. The company also announced that it will address the issue of compensation for the incident in the near future. [Read the story by Pierluigi Paganini here: Security Affairs & Hackread](#)



For Reporting Cyber Crime in the USA go to **(IC3)**, in SA go to **Cybercrime**, in the UK go to **ActionFraud**



Surveillance statistics: which cities have the most CCTV cameras?

With the new book "Surveillance State - Inside China's Quest to Launch a New Era of Social Control" by authors Josh Chin and Liza Lin, that went on sale this week, we are reminded again that in the modern world we are all monitored somehow or another. This triggered my curiosity about how many surveillance cameras are estimated to be around in the world and how relative it is in reducing crime. I then came across this recently updated statistics by [Comparitech](#) which also explores the correlation between the number of CCTV cameras and the crime index as cited by [Numbeo](#). Following is an extract of the article by Paul Bischoff.

The world's most-surveilled cities

Cities in China are under the heaviest CCTV surveillance in the world, according to a new analysis by Comparitech. But globally, many more cities are under increasing amounts of surveillance. In 2019, IHS Markit predicted that there would be 1 billion surveillance cameras worldwide by the end of last year (2021). According to the same report, 54 percent of the world's cameras are located in China, which would equate to 540 million CCTV cameras as of 2021. With a population of 1.46 billion (based on the most recent UN estimate), this means there are 372.8 cameras per 1,000 people in China.

This year, we have used this ratio to create estimated CCTV camera figures per Chinese city. Due to wildly different estimates and old figures, this seemed the most accurate and fairest way to try and gauge the sheer volume of camera figures in China. While China yet again dominates this study for its vast surveillance tactics, there are other countries whose surveillance tactics are of growing concern, including several Indian cities, London, and Los Angeles and New York in the US.

Comparitech researchers collated a number of data resources and reports, including government reports, police websites, and news articles, to get some idea of the number of CCTV cameras in use in 150 major cities across the globe. We focused primarily on public CCTV—cameras used by government entities such as law enforcement..

Here are our key findings:

- Indore, Hyderabad, Delhi, Chennai, Singapore, Moscow, Baghdad, London, St. Petersburg, and Los Angeles are the top 10 most surveilled cities outside of China (based on the number of cameras per 1,000 people)
- Delhi, Chennai, Singapore, Seoul, Moscow, London, New York, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Mexico City are the top 10 most surveilled cities outside of China (based on the number of cameras per square mile)
- **At the end of 2021, over one billion surveillance cameras are estimated to have been installed worldwide**, according to IHS Markit's latest report
- 54 percent of the world's cameras are located in China
- We found little correlation between the number of public CCTV cameras and crime or safety.

Based on the number of cameras per 1,000 people, the top 10 most surveilled Cities in the world:

- Cities of China* — 540m cameras to 1.46bn people = 372.8 cameras per 1,000 people
- 1) Indore, India — 200,600 cameras per 3,208,722 people = 62.52 cameras per 1,000 people
- Hyderabad, India — 440,299 cameras for 10,534,418 people = 41.8 cameras per 1,000 people
- 3) Delhi, India — 436,600 cameras for 16,349,831 people = 26.7 cameras per 1,000 people
- 4) Chennai, India — 282,126 cameras for 11,503,293 people = 24.53 cameras per 1,000 people
- 5) Singapore, Singapore — 108,981 cameras for 6,039,577 people = 18.04 cameras per 1,000 people
- 6) Moscow, Russia — 213,000 cameras for 12,640,818 people = 16.85 cameras per 1,000 people
- 7) Baghdad, Iraq — 120,000 cameras for 7,511,920 people = 15.97 cameras per 1,000 people
- 8) London, England (UK)** — 127,373 cameras for 9,540,576 people = 13.35 cameras per 1,000 people
- 9) St. Petersburg, Russia — 70,000 cameras for 5,535,556 people = 12.65 cameras per 1,000 people
- 10) Los Angeles, US — 34,959 cameras for 3,985,520 people = 8.77 cameras per 1,000 people

*As mentioned in the introduction, our estimates for Chinese cities this year are based on China as a whole.

The 10 most surveilled cities in the world (excluding China) — cameras per square mile

1. Delhi, India — 436,600 cameras for 302 square miles = 1,446.03 cameras per square mile
2. Chennai, India — 282,126 cameras for 459 square miles = 614.56 cameras per square mile
3. Singapore, Singapore — 108,981 cameras for 281 square miles = 387.56 cameras per square mile
4. Seoul, South Korea — 77,814 cameras for 234 square miles = 333.01 cameras per square mile
5. Moscow, Russia — 213,000 cameras for 970 square miles = 219.7 cameras per square mile
6. London, United Kingdom — 127,373 cameras for 607 square miles = 209.86 cameras per square mile
7. New York, United States — 56,190 cameras for 300 square miles = 187.06 cameras per square mile
8. Hyderabad — 440,299 cameras for 2,802 square miles = 157.14 cameras per square mile
9. Mumbai, India — 63,598 cameras for 438 square miles = 145.13 cameras per square mile
10. Mexico City, Mexico — 80,000 cameras for 573 square miles = 140 cameras per square mile

The 5 most populated cities in the world (and their camera figures)

1. Tokyo, Japan — 39,504 cameras for 37,274,000 people = 1.06 cameras per 1,000 people and 7.54 cameras per sq. mile
2. Shanghai, China — 10,631,102 cameras for 28,516,904 people = 372.8 cameras per 1,000 people and 4,342.65 cams per sq. mile
3. Dhaka, Bangladesh — 16,000 cameras for 22,478,116 people = 0.71 cameras per 1,000 people and 138.13 cameras per sq. mile
4. São Paulo, Brazil — 23,415 cameras for 22,429,800 people = 1.04 cameras per 1,000 people and 7.63 cameras per sq. mile
5. Mexico City, Mexico — 80,000 cameras for 22,085,140 people = 3.62 cameras per 1,000 people and 139.53 cameras per sq. mile

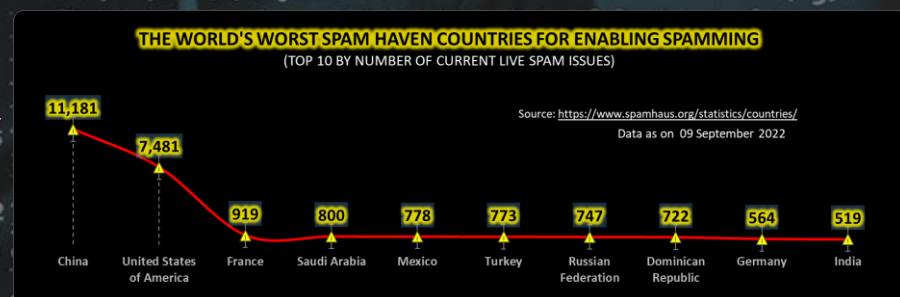
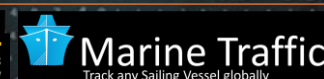
Top 10 Cities with highest crime index

Index	City	#
84	Caracas, Venezuela	1
81.7	Celaya, Mexico	2
81.7	Pretoria, South Africa	3
81.1	Port Moresby, PNG	4
80.8	Durban, South Africa	5

Index	City	#
80.7	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	6
80.6	Johannesburg, South Africa	7
79.4	Kabul, Afghanistan	8
77.7	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	9
77.7	Natal, Brazil	10

Other Interesting News and Cyber Security bits:

- ❖ **September 11, 2001 Remembered**
- ❖ **Artemis launch plan: Here are NASA's next steps after failed launch attempts**
- ❖ **In photos: Journey to the center of a quantum computer**
- ❖ **SANS Daily Network Security Podcast (Storm cast)**



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