

# Interview regarding the interim, mid year 2013 - Threat Landscape Report

With Dr. Louis Marinos, expert at ENISA and report author

Could you please tell us a little bit about the mid-year Threat Landscape report?



Figure 1 ENISA Expert Louis Marinos is the author of the mid-year Threat Landscape report.

-Through our work till around the first half of the year 2013, we have gained a first impression of the developments and trends in the cyber threats landscape. This is a snapshot of what is coming up in the end of the year, in our full Threat Landscape report for 2013.

-In particular, we have looked at the forecasts we did last year, in the first annual Threats Landscape report, and we now see how well these forecasts matched with the events of the first half of 2013. So, we observed and analysed the developments in various threat areas.

## Why is it necessary to issue a mid-term report?

-This is a good point in time, already in the middle of the year, to flag the general trends we have identified for this year. We can, by this time, observe some of the key developments in the area of cyber security and report on changes in the Threat Landscape. So this report sheds some light on emerging cyber threats.

-It is very good to prepare the ground, rather than wait a full a year to do come out with the final analysis, so that interested people instantly can act upon threat trends in their assessments. Our report has some spicy details, which people can take into account when taking actions on and preparing their security measures.

- Another factor is that many vendors and organisations issue their reports quarter, or half-yearly. So, following this, we have already started our analysis and we are now in the position to announce the first results. So, in all, to do a short summary of six months report is useful for both us and the cyber security stakeholders.

## What are the objectives of the report?

-The purpose of the report is to give the initial impressions of what threats have emerged in the cyber-security arena. But also for us such an overview is a good test for our predictive capabilities of last year. So, this enables us to see if we correctly assessed threat trends and increases our understanding regarding the dynamics in this area.

-Another objective it is to spread important references to threat reports issued in 2013 for those who needed it in their security work.

### What did you personally find most interesting in the report?

-The most fascinating matter was probably that this year we have seen big impact events occurring. ENISA therefore recently issued a [Flash Note](#) on big DDOS attacks. Last year, the security community would not expect that they would happen at least in this size and magnitude.

-Developments in the area of cyber security might significantly change the cyber security threat landscape.

-In more practical terms, we have seen that attacks scenarios become more elaborated. The attackers are using new technologies and services to launch their attacks; like for example cloud computing services, “stealth” infrastructure components. Their objective is to avoid their systems to be so easily taken down by law enforcement.

-As forecasted, we have seen mobile threats to reach a prominent position in the cyber threats landscape.



Figure 2 In 2012, the security community would not expect that DDOS attacks would happen in this size and magnitude

### So where does these threat analyses come from, how many are they and how are they aggregated?

This year we have observed growing numbers of threat reports and increased quality of reported information. Obviously, the cyber-security community gained resources, knowledge and attention from various actors of the society.

All the processed information is publicly and globally available. Relevant information is being published by security solution providers such as big security multinationals, governmental organisations, researchers, cyber security bodies, Computer Emergency Response Teams-CERT, etc. Many of the analysed reports are published in related blogs and online fora. For the numbers: so far, we have analysed around 50 reports and we estimate to cover ca. 150 by the end of the year.

### What is unique with ENISA’s report?

ENISA Threat Landscape is a neutral, consolidated source of the available threat information, At the same time it provides a unique, aggregated picture, and information on worldwide current and emerging threat trends. We think that this is very useful material for cyber-security stakeholders.

### Interview made by Ulf Bergström, Public Affairs, ENISA.

#### Background:

[Press release](#)

[Full Report](#)