



Microsoft Security Intelligence Report

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Zimbabwe

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Zimbabwe

The statistics presented here are generated by Microsoft security programs and services running on computers in Zimbabwe in 4Q14 and previous quarters. This data is provided from administrators or users who choose to opt in to provide data to Microsoft, using IP address geolocation to determine country or region.

On computers running real-time security software, most attempts by malware to infect computers are blocked before they succeed. Therefore, for a comprehensive understanding of the malware landscape, it's important to consider infection attempts that are blocked as well as infections that are removed. For this reason, Microsoft uses two different metrics to measure malware prevalence:

- *Encounter rate* is simply the percentage of computers running Microsoft real-time security products that report a malware encounter, whether the infection attempt succeeds or not.
- *Computers cleaned per mille*, or *CCM*, is an infection rate metric that is defined as the number of computers cleaned for every 1,000 unique computers executing the Malicious Software Removal Tool (MSRT), a free tool distributed through Microsoft update services that removes more than 200 highly prevalent or serious threats from computers.

Infection rate statistics for Zimbabwe

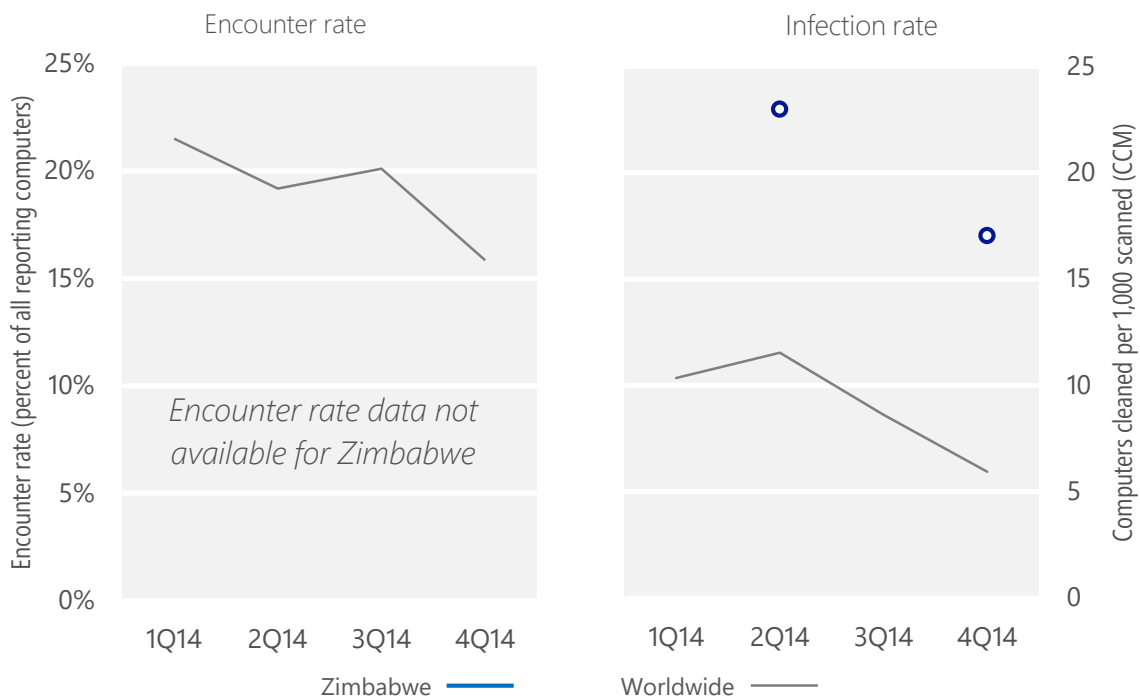
Metric	1Q14	2Q14	3Q14	4Q14
Encounter rate, Zimbabwe	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Worldwide encounter rate</i>	21.5%	19.2%	20.1%	15.9%
CCM, Zimbabwe	N/A	23.0	N/A	17.0
<i>Worldwide CCM</i>	10.3	11.5	8.6	5.9

Encounter and infection rates reported here do not include totals for the Brantall, Filcote, and Rotbrow malware families. See pages 57–64 of [Microsoft Security Intelligence Report, Volume 17](#) for an explanation of this decision.

Encounter and infection rate trends

In 4Q14, the MSRT detected and removed malware from 17.0 of every 1,000 unique computers scanned in Zimbabwe in 4Q14 (a CCM score of 17.0, compared to the 4Q14 worldwide CCM of 5.9). The following figure shows the encounter and infection rate trends for Zimbabwe over the last four quarters, compared to the world as a whole.

Malware encounter and infection rate trends in Zimbabwe and worldwide



See the Worldwide Threat Assessment section of [Microsoft Security Intelligence Report, Volume 18](#) at www.microsoft.com/sir for more information about threats in Zimbabwe and around the world, and for explanations of the methods and terms used here.

Top threat families by infection rate

The most common malware families by infection rate in Zimbabwe in 4Q14

	Family	Most significant category	Infection rate (CCM)
1	VBS/Jenxcus	Worms	6.3
2	Win32/Chir	Viruses	3.8
3	Win32/Sality	Viruses	3.0
4	Win32/Zbot	Password Stealers & Monitoring Tools	1.4
5	Win32/Ramnit	Trojans	0.8
6	Win32/Vobfus	Worms	0.7
7	MSIL/Bladabindi	Backdoors	0.6
8	Win32/Virut	Viruses	0.6
9	Win32/Gamarue	Worms	0.3
10	Win32/Parite	Viruses	0.2

- The most common threat family infecting computers in Zimbabwe in 4Q14 was [VBS/Jenxcus](#), which was detected and removed from 6.3 of every 1,000 unique computers scanned by the MSRT. [VBS/Jenxcus](#) is a worm that gives an attacker control of the computer. It is spread by infected removable drives, like USB flash drives. It can also be downloaded within a torrent file.
- The second most common threat family infecting computers in Zimbabwe in 4Q14 was [Win32/Chir](#), which was detected and removed from 3.8 of every 1,000 unique computers scanned by the MSRT. [Win32/Chir](#) is a family with a worm component and a virus component. The worm component spreads by email and by exploiting a vulnerability addressed by Microsoft Security Bulletin MS01-020. The virus component may infect .exe, .scr, and HTML files.
- The third most common threat family infecting computers in Zimbabwe in 4Q14 was [Win32/Sality](#), which was detected and removed from 3.0 of every 1,000 unique computers scanned by the MSRT. [Win32/Sality](#) is a family of polymorphic file infectors that target executable files with the extensions .scr or .exe. They may execute a damaging payload that deletes files with certain extensions and terminates security-related processes and services.
- The fourth most common threat family infecting computers in Zimbabwe in 4Q14 was [Win32/Zbot](#), which was detected and removed from 1.4 of every 1,000 unique computers scanned by the MSRT. [Win32/Zbot](#) is a family of password stealing trojans that also contains backdoor functionality allowing unauthorized access and control of an affected computer.

Drive-by download sites

A *drive-by download* site is a website that hosts one or more exploits that target vulnerabilities in web browsers and browser add-ons. Users with vulnerable computers can be infected with malware simply by visiting such a website, even without attempting to download anything. Drive-by download pages are usually hosted on legitimate Web sites to which an attacker has posted exploit code. Attackers gain access to legitimate sites through intrusion or by posting malicious code to a poorly secured web form, like a comment field on a blog. Compromised sites can be hosted anywhere in the world and concern nearly any subject imaginable, making it difficult for even an experienced user to identify a compromised site from a list of search results.

Search engines such as Bing have taken a number of measures to help protect users from drive-by downloads. As Bing indexes the web, pages are assessed for malicious elements or malicious behavior. Clicking the link in the list of search results displays a prominent warning, saying that the page may contain malicious software.

At the end of 3Q14, Bing detected 1.36 drive-by download URLs for every 1,000 URLs hosted in Zimbabwe, compared to 0.41 worldwide. At the end of 4Q14, Bing detected 0.98 drive-by download URLs for every 1,000 URLs hosted in Zimbabwe, compared to 0.45 worldwide.

Drive-by download pages per 1,000 URLs hosted in Zimbabwe and worldwide

Metric	October 1, 2014	January 1, 2015
Drive-by download pages per 1,000 URLs, Zimbabwe	1.36	0.98
<i>Drive-by download pages per 1,000 URLs worldwide</i>	<i>0.41</i>	<i>0.45</i>



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