North Korean Hackers Swipe $1.3bn in Crypto: Report

Description

A new study shows that hackers stole $2.2bn in cryptocurrencies this year. North Korean hackers took $1.3bn, pretending to be IT workers. They infiltrated technology firms to steal digital currencies. This is more than double what they stole last year. The price of bitcoin has doubled this year too.

The study says that hacking increased by 21% from last year. Most of the theft happened because private keys were compromised. These keys control access to users' assets on crypto platforms. Centralised exchanges have a lot of user funds, so losing private keys can be very bad.

Some big thefts this year include $300m stolen from a Japanese exchange and $235m lost in India. The US government says North Korea uses cybercrime to get around international sanctions. They indicted 14 North Koreans for trying to extort money from US companies for weapons programmes. The State Department is offering a reward for information on the scheme.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Hackers** /ˈhækərz/ (noun): Individuals who gain unauthorized access to computer systems often for malicious purposes.
2. **Infiltrated** /ˈɪn.fɪl.treɪ.tɪd/ (verb): To penetrate or gain access to an organization or system often secretly.
3. **Compromised** /ˈkɑːmprəmaɪzd/ (verb): To weaken security or integrity of something typically by exposing it to danger.
4. **Theft** /θɛft/ (noun): The act of stealing; the wrongful taking and carrying away of the personal property of another.
5. **Sanctions** /ˈsæŋkʃənz/ (noun): Penalties or restrictions imposed by one country on another often to influence behavior.
6. **Extort** /ɪkˈstɔːrt/ (verb): To obtain something especially money through force or threats.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. According to the study, how much money did hackers steal in cryptocurrencies this year?

   Option: $1.5bn

Option: $2.2bn
Option: $3.5bn
Option: $4.8bn

2. Where did most of the theft by hackers occur?

Option: Japan
Option: India
Option: South Korea
Option: North Korea

3. What is the reason stated in the study for most of the theft in cryptocurrencies?

Option: Phishing attacks
Option: Private keys compromise
Option: Software vulnerabilities
Option: Brute force hacking

4. Which country indicted 14 North Koreans for attempting to extort money from US companies?

Option: Japan
Option: India
Option: United States
Option: South Korea

5. How much money was stolen from a Japanese exchange this year?

Option: $100m
Option: $200m
Option: $300m
Option: $400m

6. What percentage did hacking increase by this year compared to the previous year according to the study?

Option: 12%
Option: 21%
Option: 35%
Option: 44%

True-False

7. The price of bitcoin increased by 50% this year.

8. Losing private keys in crypto platforms is not a significant problem.

9. The State Department is not involved in any initiatives related to the hacking scheme.

10. North Korean hackers targeted technology firms to steal digital currencies.

11. North Korea uses cybercrime to avoid international sanctions according to the US government.

12. The theft in India was lower than the theft in Japan this year.

Gap-Fill

13. _____ hackers stole $1.3bn in cryptocurrencies this year.

14. The US government indicted 14 North Koreans for attempting to extort money from US companies for

_____ programmes.

15. North Korean hackers infiltrated _____ to steal digital currencies.

16. The US State Department is offering a reward for information on the hacking _____.

17. The price of bitcoin _____ this year according to the given information.

18. The theft in _____ this year was $235m according to the content.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. $2.2bn 2. North Korea 3. Private keys compromise 4. United States 5. $300m 6. 21%
True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. True
Gap-Fill: 13. North Korean 14. weapons 15. technology firms 16. scheme 17. doubled 18. India

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is a result of great effort or success?

Option: Puzzles
Option: Intelligence
Option: Achievement
Option: Hackers

2. What happens when security has been breached?

Option: Theft
Option: Compromised
Option: Sanctions
Option: Infiltrated

3. What are intense bursts of energy from stars called?

Option: Superflares
Option: Radiation
Option: Ejection
Option: Coronal

4. What are substances added to improve or preserve something?

Option: Toxins
Option: Additives
Option: Detect
Option: Artificial

5. What type of effects can be caused by dangerous substances?

Option: Approval
Option: Compliance
Option: Dangers
Option: Features

6. Where can different software applications operate?

Option: Intelligence
Option: Platforms
Option: Skills
Option: Progress

7. What is the action of obtaining something through force or threats?

Option: Extort
Option: Theft
Option: Sanctions
Option: Infiltrated

8. What are poisonous substances produced by living cells or organisms?

Option: Toxins

Option: Detect
Option: Additives
Option: Artificial

9. What is a fact or statement that has been validated as true?

Option: Achievement
Option: Puzzles
Option: Skills
Option: Confirmed

10. What term relates to the Earth's magnetic field?

Option: Communication
Option: Geomagnetic
Option: Superflares
Option: Radiation

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Hackers often use their _____ to gain unauthorized access to systems.

12. Continuous learning and improvement lead to personal _____ .

13. The latest model of the smartphone has advanced _____ for better usability.

14. Businesses need to adhere to regulations for legal _____ .

15. The proposal requires the manager's _____ before implementation.

16. Using advanced sensors helps in early _____ of potential issues.

17. Effective _____ is essential for smooth teamwork and collaboration.

18. Regular practice enhances one's _____ in various areas.

19. Countries may impose _____ as penalties for certain actions.

20. Burglary involves the illegal _____ of property.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The spies successfully the enemy headquarters without being detected.

22. The synthetic diamonds are considered to be of origin.

23. The new car model boasts advanced safety for driver assistance.

24. Exposure to excessive solar can be harmful to living organisms.

25. The security system enables early of unauthorized access attempts.

26. are skilled individuals who use technology to gain unauthorized access.

27. Warning signs indicate potential on the hiking trail.

28. Continuous practice helps in honing one's professional .

29. Regular assessments track the project team's towards the set goals.

30. Solar ejections can disrupt satellite communications on Earth.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Achievement 2. Compromised 3. Superflares 4. Additives 5. Harmful 6. Platforms 7. Extort 8. Toxins 9. Confirmed 10. Geomagnetic

Gap-Fill: 11. Intelligence 12. Progress 13. Features 14. Compliance 15. Approval 16. Detection 17. Communication 18. Skills 19. Sanctions 20. Theft

Matching sentence: 1. Infiltrated 2. Artificial 3. Features 4. Radiation 5. Detection 6. Hackers 7. Dangers 8. Skills 9. Progress 10. Coronal

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

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