Are the New European Cybersecurity Regulations Working?

The cybersecurity struggle continues. Over the past year, organizations in all sectors experienced compromises of their systems, with the Technology, Utilities, and Government sectors experiencing the highest rates. Companies in the highly regulated Finance sector continue to be the world's strongest cybersecurity performers.

Global cybersecurity performance is weak, but Europe is improving. Continental cyber-security performance continues to decline, with notable exceptions of Europe and South America. Over the last year, organizations operating within Europe have improved their defenses steadily in several ways, including implementing stronger controls to reduce Internet exposed services (open ports).

Credit the new regulatory environment for improvement? Improvements in European security performance are observable in the months immediately before and after the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a landmark European Union law that requires companies with sensitive European customer data to implement a broad set of cybersecurity requirements or face punitive fines — up to 4% of global revenue. GDPR officially went into effect in May 2018.

The chorus for GDPR-style regulation is growing internationally. For years, global policy-makers have struggled to develop effective responses to the cyber threat; now GDPR-style regulations are being considered around the world and in states like California. Apple's Tim Cook recently called for U.S. legislators to consider a national approach.

Future state: data-driven policy decisions. If cybersecurity performance can be measured, how will the data be used to assess the impact and effectiveness of law and regulation? What role will data play in future cybersecurity policymaking?
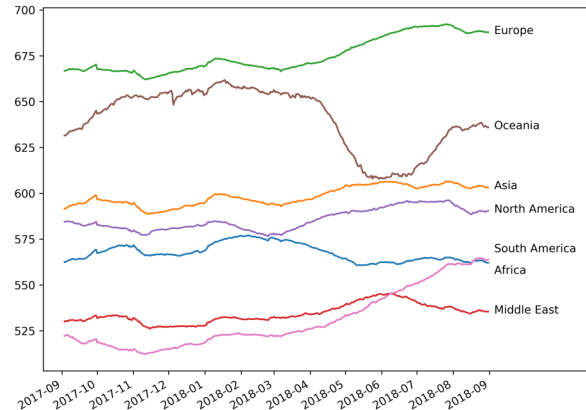
Source: BitSight data sets

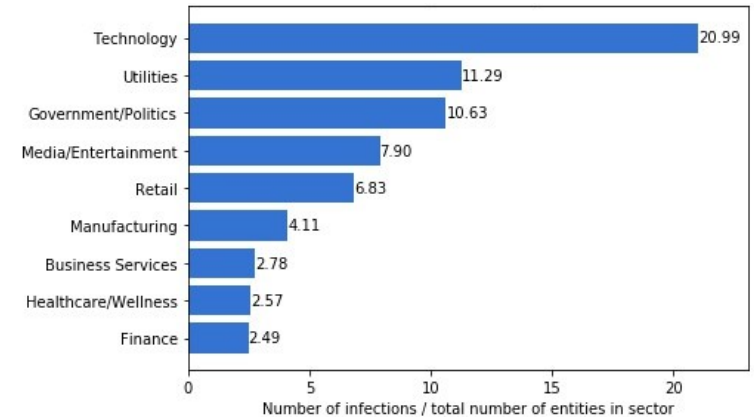### BitSight Security Ratings By Sector — October 2018

Basic (250-639) | Intermediate (640-739) | Advanced (740-900)
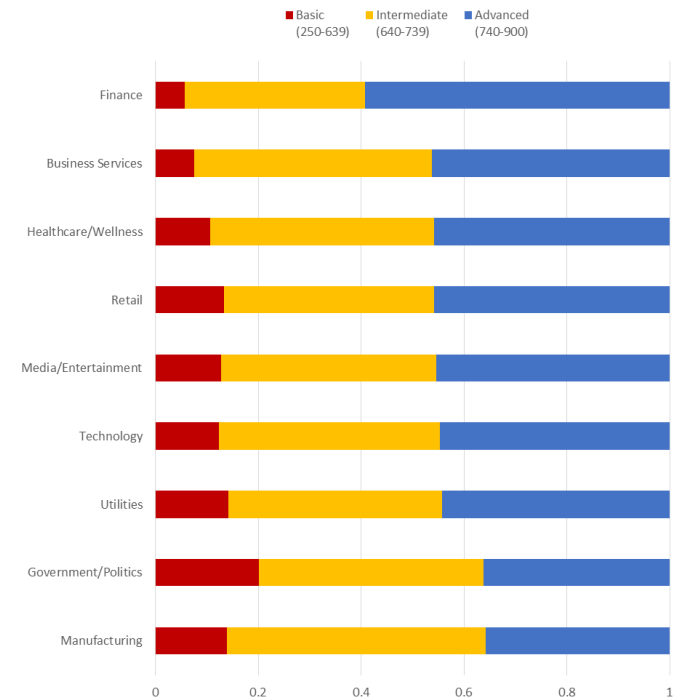
Cybersecurity Performance By Continent
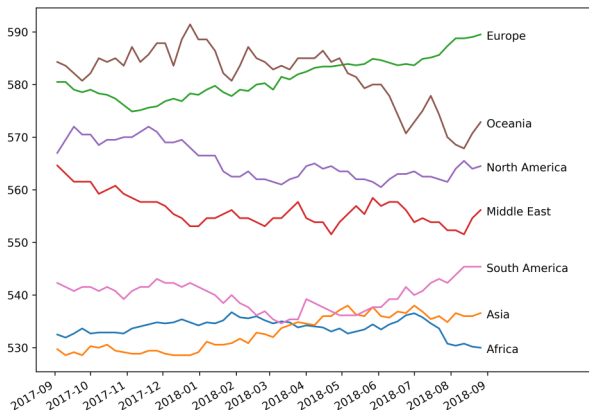
Effectiveness In Reducing Internet Exposures (Open Ports)

Compromised System (Botnet Infections) Per Entity For Various Sectors Since September 11, 2017

Sector	Number of infections / total number of entities in sector
Technology	20.99
Utilities	11.29
Government/Politics	10.63
Media/Entertainment	7.90
Retail	6.83
Manufacturing	4.11
Business Services	2.78
Healthcare/Wellness	2.57
Finance	2.49

BITSIGHT
The Standard in SECURITY RATINGS

BitSight Technologies
111 Huntington Avenue
Boston MA 02199
www.bitsighttech.com
+1 617.245.0469

About BitSight: