

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

by the TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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Our year online

Scammers live online, operate online, and try to hide online. We're also online to make their lives a living hell, and to expose their operation and hiding places.

Items Tracked	2014	2015	Change from 2014	2016	Change from 2015
SCAMMERS' IDS EXPOSED (1)	3189	3962	24%	4620	17%
<i>New scammers' IDs (ghosts) created per MONTH</i>	n/a	64	n/a	55	-15%
SCAMMERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES EXPOSED	7780	10478	35%	12400	18%
<i>New scammers' emails created per MONTH</i>	n/a	225	n/a	160	-29%
EMAILS SENT TO TSD	n/a	576	n/a	1435	149%
<i>New Listings in Directory resulted from Emails</i>	n/a	24%	n/a	57%	138%
WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS	103053	117580	14%	167995	43%
<i>Pageviews - Daily Average</i>	283	323	14%	460	42%
WEBSITE UNIQUE VISITORS	80880	93567	16%	104250	11%
<i>Unique Visitors - Daily Average</i>	222	257	16%	285	11%
WEBSITE FIRST TIME VISITORS	47433	54851	16%	60088	10%
<i>First Time Visitors - Daily Average</i>	130	151	16%	165	9%
WEBSITE RETURNING VISITORS	33447	38716	16%	44162	14%
<i>Returning Visitors - Daily Average</i>	92	107	16%	121	13%
FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER	n/a	1960	n/a	2415	23%
COUNTRIES VISITED WEBSITE	n/a	208	n/a	213	2%

(1) Scammer ID: Name + Email

Date: December 31, 2016

Notes worth noting

- Compared to 2015, we've noticed in 2016:
 - 15% DECREASE in NEW SCAMMERS' IDS** (55/month, 660 in the year);
 - 29% DECREASE in their NEW EMAILS** (160/month, 1,920 in the year); NOT all emails listed are related to CV theft scams.
 - 95% (about) of the fake CVs circulated were just recycled, i.e., came from known names and emails.**
 - 11% INCREASE of UNIQUE VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE** (11% increase in the daily average);
 - 10% INCREASE of FIRST TIME VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE** (9% increase in the daily average);
 - 14% INCREASE of RETURNING VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE** (13% increase in the daily average).
- The moderate increases in UNIQUE and FIRST TIME VISITORS are fully expectable, as our website, now in its 5th year of operation, is well known within the Translation Community. The solid numbers of RETURNING VISITORS (+14%) are a clear proof of it.
- On Twitter, we continue to aggressively block spammers, free riders, non-identified "eggs", gratuitous namers and shamers and those with protected tweets.

So, is this exposure of scammers working?

Clearly, yes. And, as long as genuine translators and companies do not fuel the scammers' "business", it's going to work even more. Look at this as fishing, with us being the fish: as long as we know what to look for, scammers will reel in nothing, no matter how many times they cast their scamming lures at us.

Acknowledgments

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