

# In the Boxing Ring

## MAY 2021

## Network Box Technical News

from **Mark Webb-Johnson**

Chief Technology Officer, Network Box

### Welcome to the May 2021 edition of In the **Boxing Ring**

This month, we are talking about **Market Share versus Vulnerability**. Looking at the statistics for malware detections, it is clear that Microsoft Windows is a huge target. Last year, around 83% of malware targeted Windows, with another 11% targeting browsers, leaving just a few percentages left for all the other platforms. But does that mean that Windows is inherently weaker and more vulnerable? On pages 2 to 3, we analyze the data and discuss this in detail.

In this month's Media Coverage, Network Box's Managing Director, Michael Gazeley, was on **RTHK Radio 3** to discuss the rift between Apple and Facebook. Furthermore, Network Box was featured in **CDOTrends**, and the latest episode of **HPCC Hackpod Club** has been released. In addition, the new **Dashboard Admin Guide** is now available.



**Mark Webb-Johnson**  
CTO, Network Box Corporation Ltd.  
May 2021

### In this month's issue:

#### Page 2 to 3

#### **Market Share versus Vulnerability**

In our featured article, we analyze the statistical data of vulnerabilities for *Products* and *Vendors*. And discuss what makes Microsoft such a massive target for hackers and malware.

#### Page 4

#### **Network Box Highlights:**

- **Network Box Dashboard**

- **Network Box Media Coverage:**

- RTHK Radio 3
- CDOTrends
- HPCC Hackpod Club

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# Market Share **VERSUS** Vulnerability

Looking at the statistics for malware detections, it is clear that Microsoft Windows is a huge target. Last year, around 83% of malware targeted Windows, with another 11% targeting browsers, leaving just a few percentages left for all the other platforms. But does that mean that Windows is inherently weaker and more vulnerable?



Let's start by looking at the vulnerabilities. Almost all of these are tracked by the CVE (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures) project, and they helpfully provide some summary statistics. When looking by product, the top 5 are all Linux based (not Windows).

### Top 10 Products by Total Number of "Distinct" Vulnerabilities

#	Product Name	Vendor	Type	Vulnerabilities
1	Debian Linux	Debian	OS	3,067
2	Android	Google	OS	2,563
3	Linux Kernel	Linux	OS	2,357
4	Mac OS X	Apple	OS	2,212
5	Ubuntu Linux	Canonical	OS	2,007
6	Firefox	Mozilla	App	1,873
7	Chrome	Google	App	1,858
8	Iphone OS	Apple	OS	1,655
9	Windows Server 2008	Microsoft	OS	1,421
10	Windows 7	Microsoft	OS	1,283

<https://www.cvedetails.com/top-50-products.php?year=0>

When looking by vendor, Microsoft takes the #1 spot – but perhaps only because they have so many products. Looking at the number of vulnerabilities, the top 5: Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, Google, and Apple, are not far apart.

### Top 10 Vendors by Total Number of "Distinct" Vulnerabilities

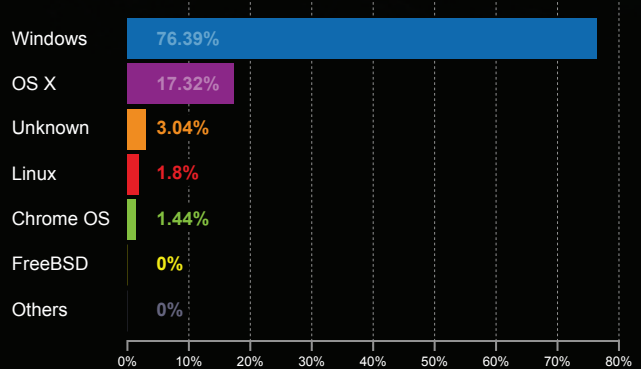
#	Vendor	Vulnerabilities	Number of products	Vulnerabilities per Product
1	Microsoft	6,814	529	13
2	Oracle	6,115	644	9
3	IBM	4,679	1,064	4
4	Google	4,572	84	54
5	Apple	4,512	119	38
6	Cisco	4,167	3,676	1
7	Adobe	3,314	132	25
8	Debian	3,197	97	33
9	Redhat	2,805	301	9
10	Linux	2,370	17	139

<https://www.cvedetails.com/top-50-vendors.php?year=0>

It is pretty clear that Microsoft doesn't have the most vulnerable products. 10 to 20 years ago, the situation was different. Since then, Microsoft (and others) have spent considerable effort on improving the security of their products and being more transparent about the vulnerabilities found through programs such as MAPP (Microsoft Active Protections Program), and others.

So, what makes Microsoft such a huge target for malware? The simple answer is market share. Looking at the desktop market, Windows has a leading 76% of the market, followed by Apple with 17%. The different varieties of Linux fight over the paltry scraps remaining.

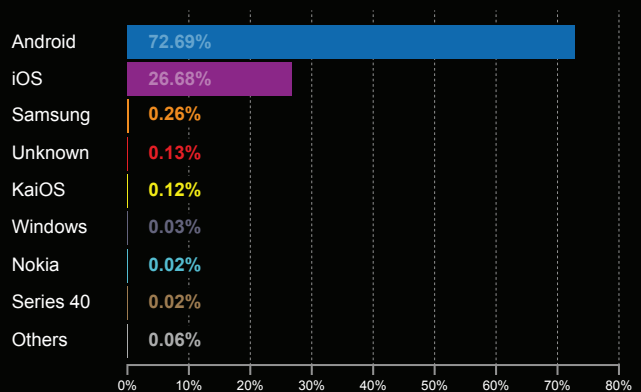
### Desktop Operating System Market Share Worldwide



<https://gs.statcounter.com/os-market-share/desktop/worldwide#monthly-202004-202104-bar>

When looking at the market for mobile platforms, Android has a 73% share, followed by iOS at 27%. Indeed, Apple's iOS has a more curated App Store, and the platform is a lot more locked down secure than Google's Android, but market share goes a long way in explaining what we see.

### Mobile Operating System Market Share Worldwide



<https://gs.statcounter.com/os-market-share/mobile/worldwide#monthly-202004-202104-bar>

**If you were to develop a product, which platform would you develop it for to achieve your goal of the highest sales quantities? The platform with 76% of the market, or the one with 17%? It is no different for malware authors; they target the platforms with the most users. Microsoft Windows reportedly has 1.5 billion active users, and Android more than 2 billion. Nowadays, with the proliferation of ransomware, malware is all about the money.**

# Network Box HIGHLIGHTS



## Network Box HTML-5 Dashboard



The Network Box HTML-5 dashboard gives you real-time visual feedback of both cyber attacks and your network status. It is made up of hundreds of different widgets, and it is fully customizable. The layout can be changed to give you complete control over how you want to monitor your network.

Additionally, the dashboard is compatible with almost any modern large-screen mobile device to provide real-time portable monitoring. Thus, allowing you to continually monitor your network's status even when you are away from your workstation.



Please use the link below to download the new  
**Dashboard Admin Guide:**  
<https://bit.ly/3aZ84MN>

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## Media Coverage & Security Headlines



### RTHK Radio 3

Backchat with Hugh Chiverton:  
*Rift between Apple and Facebook*

LINK: <https://bit.ly/3uhLZkb>



### CDOTrends

Herd Immunity from  
Computer Worms

LINK: <https://bit.ly/3e9HrPc>



### HPCC Hackpod Club

Episode #8:  
*Funding in IT*

LINK: <https://bit.ly/2PHUmXc>



### TechRepublic

Apple supplier Quanta hit with \$50  
million ransomware attack from REvil

LINK: <https://tek.io/3uhScwv>



### Bloomberg

Facebook Data on 533 Million Users  
Reemerges Online for Free

LINK: <https://bloom.bg/3h1Hoif>



### CNN

White House warns organizations have  
'hours, not days' to fix vulnerabilities as  
Microsoft Exchange attacks increase

LINK: <https://cnn.it/3vFMLrl>