

Domain Annual Report 2022



Welcome to the Spamhaus Annual Domain Report. Our domain experts have created a high-level analysis of the domain ecosphere they observed in 2022.

Number of new domains observed and number of domains listed

Number of Domains Listed

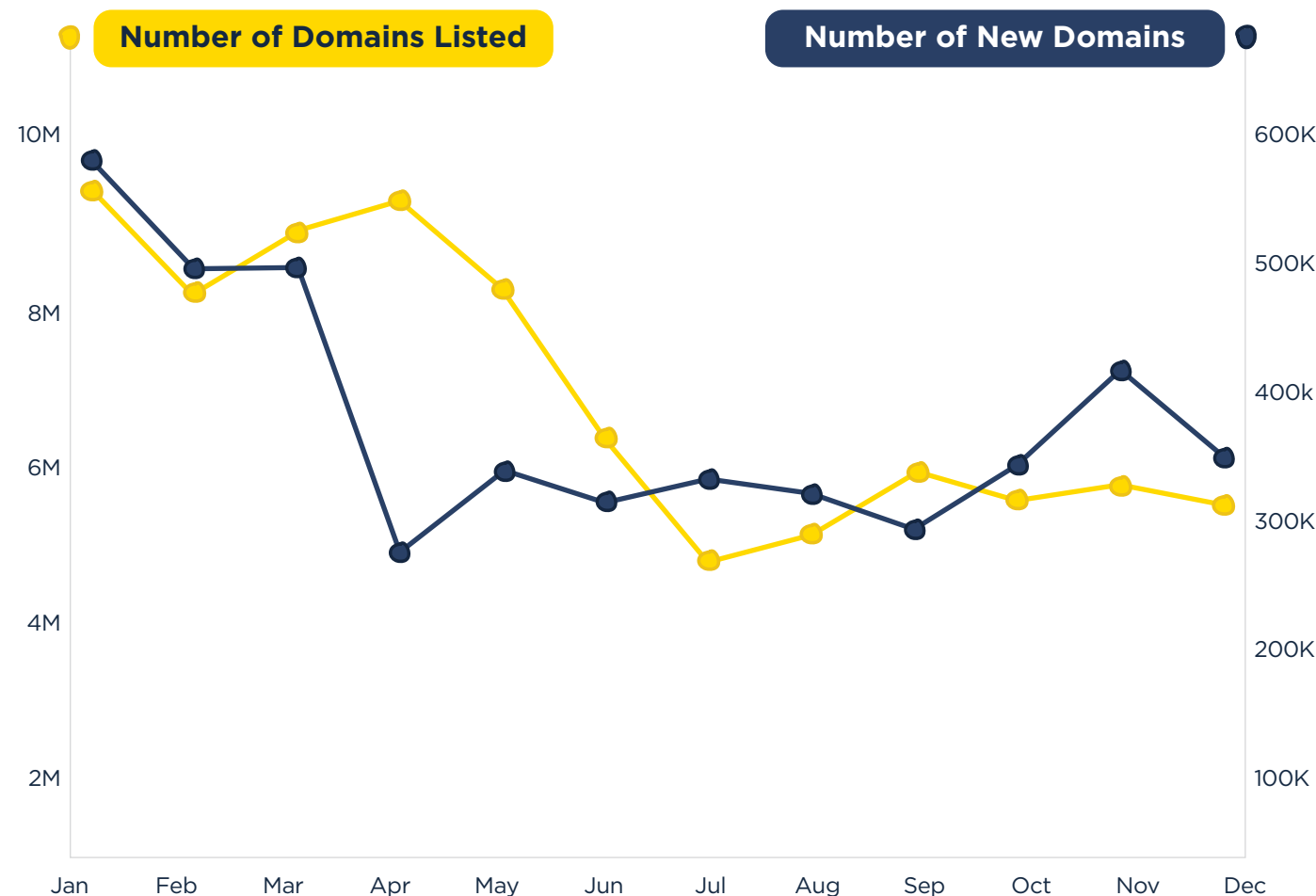
4.8M

▲ 2.6% ▲

Number of New Domains

75.8M

▼ 2.5% ▼



Top 10 TLDS by number of listed domains and the total new domains observed

Rank	TLD	Listed domains	Newly observed domains
1	.com	7,734,424	23,432,504
2	.cn	2,035,948	1,279,577
3	.net	781,956	1,183,666
4	.info	705,564	551,365
5	.top	644,676	839,037
6	.ml	502,332	1,305,071
7	.tk	487,316	2,249,203
8	.xyz	441,764	1,412,930
9	.live	419,512	294,220
10	.org	273,172	1,050,216

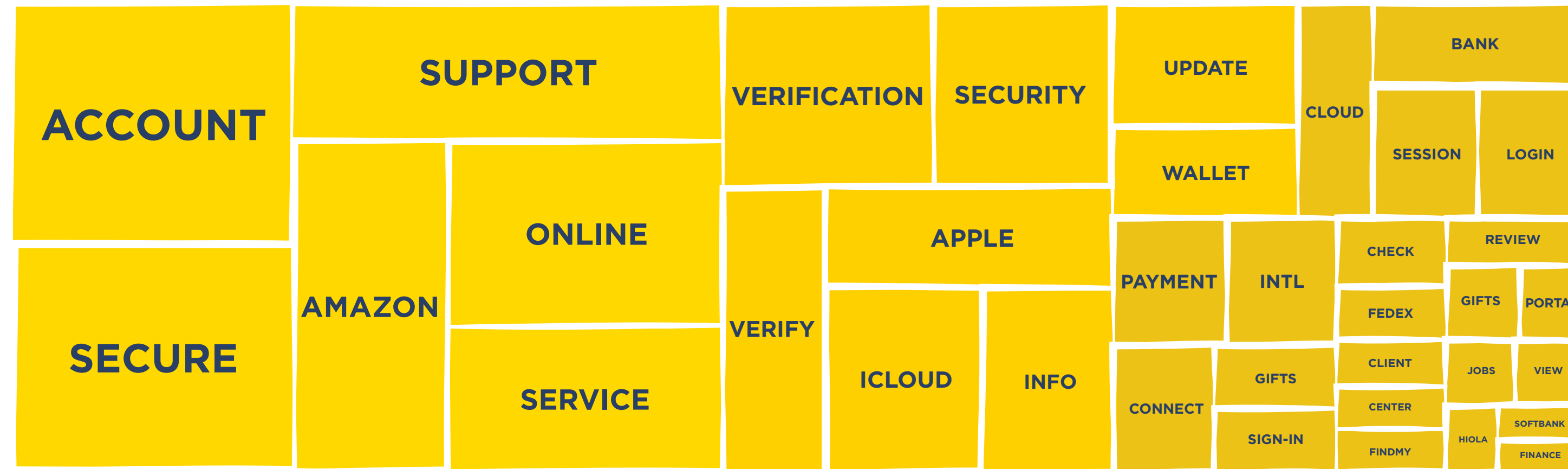
Top 5 country code top-level domains (ccTLDs)

Rank	TLD	Number of listed domains
1	.cn	508,987
2	.ml	125,583
3	.tk	121,829
4	.us	65,025
5	.ga	62,696

Top 5 general top-level domains (gTLDs)

Rank	TLD	Number of listed domains	Number in zone	% of domains listed
1	.cam	13.2k	27.1K	48.73%
2	.casa	6.8K	15.2K	44.96%
3	.bar	27.4K	105.8K	25.86%
4	.work	65K	271.3K	23.95%
5	.rest	7.7K	46.2K	16.62%

●●● Top phishing terms



Top 5 phishing terms



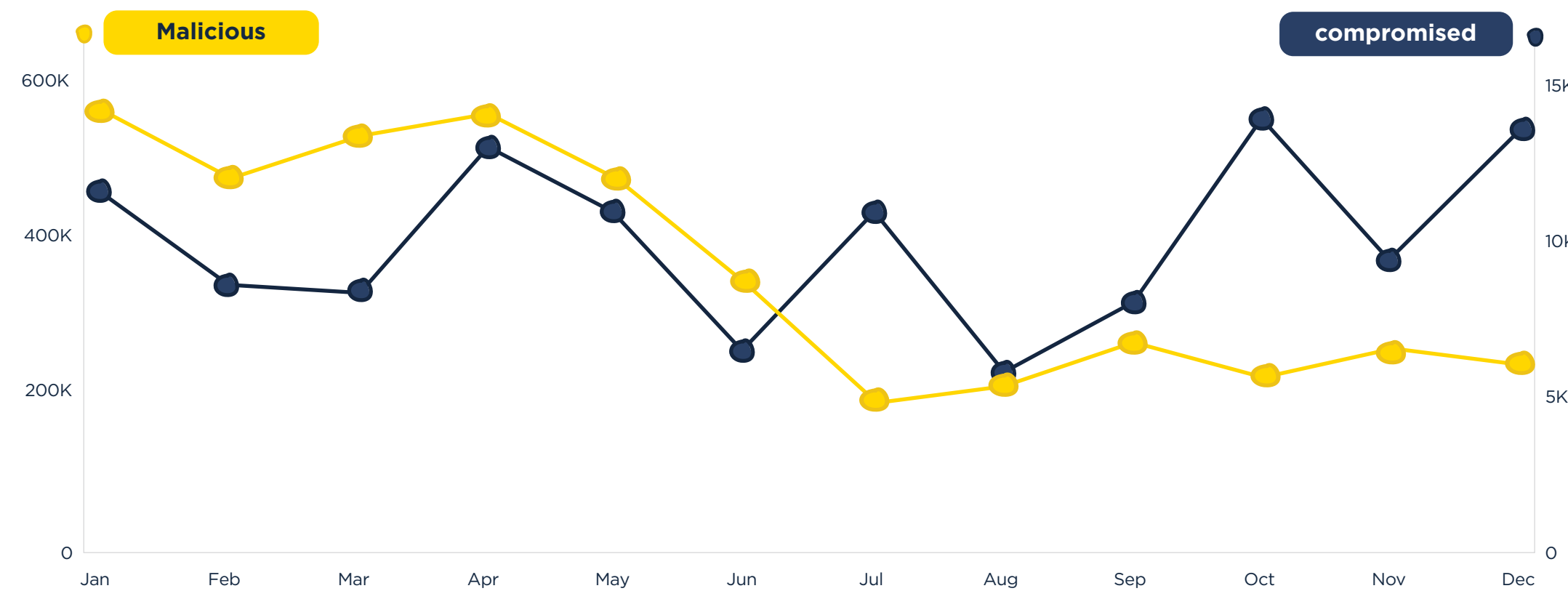
●●● Compromised V Malicious

Malicious Domains

4.5M
▼-3.5%▼

Compromised Domains

124.1K
▲79.9%▲



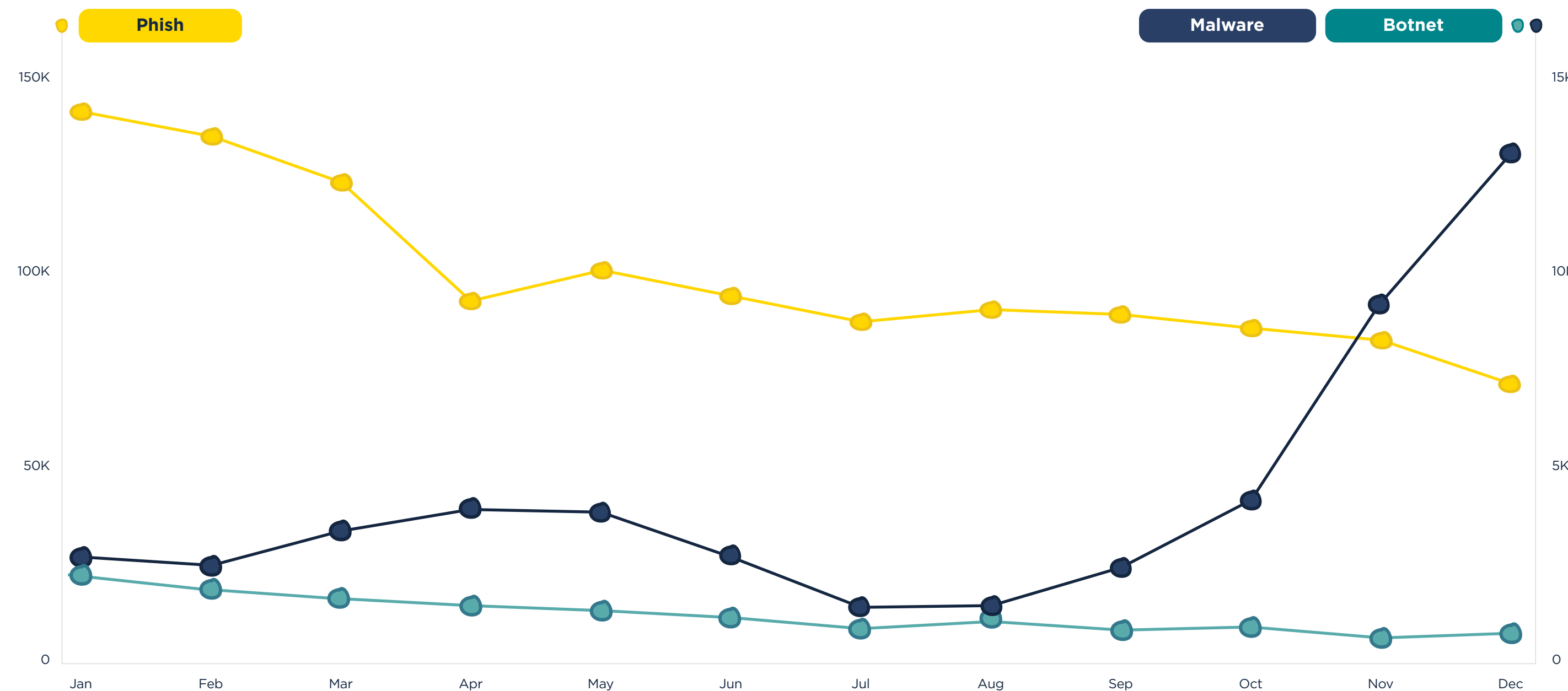
Types of abuse

Total Phishing
1.3M

Bad reputation
3.0M

Total Malware
60.5K

Total Botnet C&C
19.0K



Recommendations

- Is abuse data used proactively to manage fraudulent domain registrations?** - Out of the top five terms used in phishing URLs in 2022, “Amazon” is the only brand name that features; the rest are more generic terms like “account” and “support”. Amazon’s brand protection team clearly has its work cut out for them. But as mentioned in our quarterly report, it is time for registries and registrars to start taking more ownership of this issue, ensuring they flag any domain name registrations containing consistently abused terms for further validation. Applying Know Your Client (KYC) procedures to those will probably curb a large percentage of the abuse.
- If it’s low-cost or free, abuse will proliferate.** We consistently bang the same drum, but that’s because the landscape isn’t changing. Bad actors will always take advantage of internet infrastructure where it’s either low cost or, even better, free. Nothing highlights this fact more than Freenom’s TLDs (.cf, .ga, .gq, .ml, and .tk.) being associated with 35% of 2022’s domain listings. All these TLDs can be purchased for free. It is important to note that the more domains being made available to miscreants because of low pricing amplifies the work the defensive side has to do.
- Please don’t allow your domain to become a victim.** With an 80% increase in the number of compromised domains listed in 2022, it’s more important than ever that everyone takes the necessary steps to protect their domain(s) and ensure it or its contents aren’t compromised. From the basics to the advanced, this applies to small operators and huge corporations. Updating content management systems (CMSs), securing DNS and registrar accounts, and setting up authentication to prevent email spoofing is all part of this. At the same time, the underlying service providers should be more proactive in finding these issues in their customer base.