Section 03. Smart Solutions in IT

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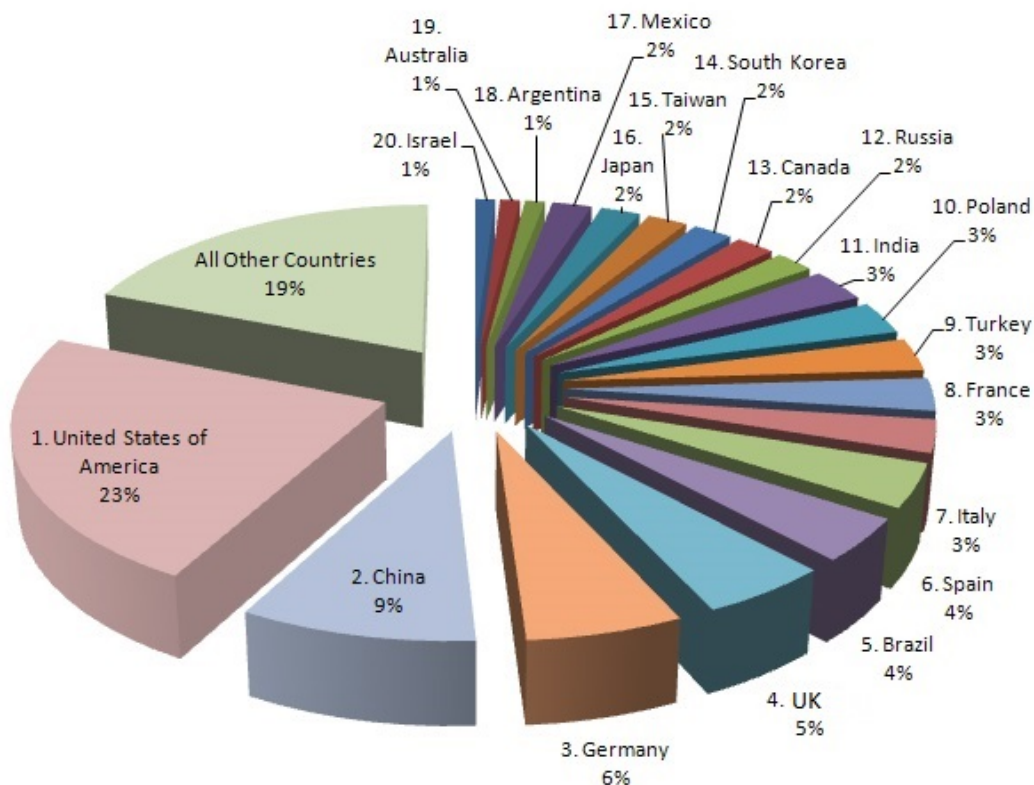
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7 Tips How to Avoid Cybercrimes

During last years, information technologies and social networks have gradually become an important part of human life. People send their personal information to the Internet and don't think much about what happens to it. Criminals can take as much information as they need from personal photos, postings, etc. This paper proposes some tips how to ensure personal information safety.

Statistical data about cybercrimes taken from the sites which are in free access shows that cybercrimes are most common in USA and UK (see Fig. 1 below). If compare the number of the reports to police in UK and Ukraine in 2016, we can see that in UK there are 5,000 reports while Ukrainian people reported to police because of this 4,000 times but if to look at the dynamics of cybercrimes increase, we can state that number of reports to police in Ukraine is increasing, while in UK it is almost at the same level during past two years (see Fig. 2 below).

Cybercrime: Top 20 Countries

Fig. 1 Statistics of world cybercrimes
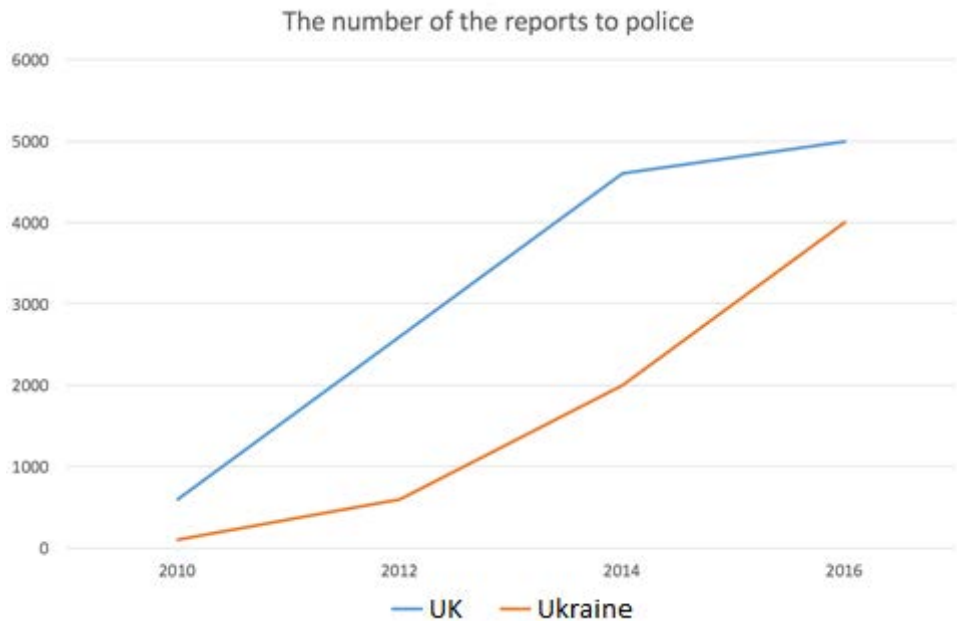
The number of the reports to police

Fig. 2 Reports on cybercrimes in Ukraine and UK

The research proves that the majority of Internet users are young people of the age from 10 to 30 years, most of who can't even imagine their life without Internet and social networks, in particular. With just few clicks, posts and messages anyone could give away enough personal information to compromise their privacy.

Some tips how to protect yourself in the Internet could be given to the social networks users:

1. Remember the Internet is permanent: any information located in the Internet for a while will be stored there forever.
2. Manage your privacy settings by your own.
3. Be selective when accepting a "Friend".
4. Be careful when clicking on unknown links.
5. Be suspicious when you are asked for your personal information.
6. Do not enable auto login.
7. Change your passwords frequently.

In conclusion, as technologies are developing faster and faster, and doing our life easier, anyone should remember about security, privacy and personal space that makes people life comfortable and safe.

References:
1. *Top 20 countries found to have the most cybercrime* (2012). [Online]. Available at: http://enigmasoftware.com. Accessed 7 February, 2017.
2. Siciliano, R. (2014) *10 Tips to Protect Yourself on Social Networks*. [Online]. Available at: http://securingtomorrow.mcafee.com. Accessed 26 January, 2017.