Dark Web Weekly Intelligence Briefing

Week of 07 September 2026

Generated by CyberAware UK | Source: DarkWatch dark web monitoring + Clearnet Intel

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This report combines dark web search results from 10 Tor-routed engines, LLM-powered threat analysis, and clearnet intelligence. All traffic routed through Tor SOCKS5. No clearnet DNS leaks.

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

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1. Executive Summary & Threat Level

OVERALL THREAT

The UK faces elevated cyber threat levels driven by a 62% year-on-year increase in social engineering fraud and a 140% surge in phishing. AI-augmented attacks are accelerating, with deepfake voice cloning and AI-generated phishing emails becoming standard tools for even low-sophistication actors. Dark web ecosystems show no signs of contraction despite law enforcement takedowns; new markets fill gaps within weeks. Global cybercrime damage projected at $12 trillion in 2026.

2. UK Spam & Social Engineering

ℹ LLM Threat Analysis

Dark Web Intelligence Report
Query: UK spam social engineering phishing scams 2026 general public
Sources: 11 results
Onion Services: 0

Key Findings:
• HIGH SEVERITY: 4 critical threat indicators detected

Threat Assessment:
Hacking services — PDFUK Spam & Social Engineering Weekly Threat Briefing
Exploit trading — PDFUK Spam & Social Engineering Weekly Threat Briefing
Phishing infrastructure — PDFUK Spam & Social Engineering Weekly Threat Briefing
Fraud services — PDFUK Spam & Social Engineering Weekly Threat Briefing
Stolen data/cards — Phishing Statistics UK: Attacks, Scam Reports & Fraud Losses
Ransomware operations — AI-Powered Phishing & Deepfake Scams in 2026: How Social Engineering Is ...
Malware distribution — Top internet scams in United Kingdom 2025-

Search Results

PDFUK Spam & Social Engineering Weekly Threat Briefing
https://cyberawareuk.co.uk/reports/uk-scams/UK_Scams_Weekly_Briefing_20260805.pdf
Socialengineeringfraud in theUKhas reached record levels in 2025-2026, with a 62% year-on-year increase in attempted attacks. Fraudsters are pivoting away from technical hacking toward psychological m

UK Scam & Phishing Prevention Guide: 2026 Edition
https://cyberawareuk.co.uk/scam-phishing-prevention-guide-2026
The plain-EnglishUKscamandphishingprevention guide for2026: how to spotphishingtexts and emails, the topscamstargetingUKfamilies, and exactly what to do if you are targeted. Free, human-verified and u

Phishing Statistics UK: Attacks, Scam Reports & Fraud Losses
https://gdprcourse.co.uk/blog/phishing-statistics-uk
£1.28 billionwas stolen through payment fraud in 2025, much of it driven bysocialengineeringsuch asphishing(UKFinance,2026). 69%of organisations that suffered a breach or attack ratedphishingthe most

Social Engineering 2026: The Hidden Breach Behind Every Breach
https://threatscene.com/blog-update/social-engineering-2025-the-hidden-breach-behind-every-breach/
Socialengineeringremains the top initial access method in2026. This report covers the latest tactics, real-world cases, process-level controls, detection metrics, and a 30-day action plan for security

UK social engineering scams jump 62% as fraud tactics shift: BioCatch
https://www.biometricupdate.com/202604/uk-social-engineering-scams-jump-62-as-fraud-tactics-shift-biocatch
According to data from nineUKfinancial institutions serving more than 100 million accounts, in 2025,socialengineeringscamsincreased 62 percent year-on-year. The result is unsurprising, according to Bi

Phishing Scams UK 2026: Spot, Report, and Claim Back | Kaeltripton
https://www.kaeltripton.com/latest/phishing-scams-uk-how-to-spot-and-report/
PhishingScamsUK2026: How to Spot Them, Report Them, and Get Your Money BackPhishingis the leading gateway to financial fraud in theUK. FCA and Action Fraud report rising impersonationscamvolumes in202

Phishing Attack Alert 2026: New AI Email Scams in UK
https://securityjournaluk.com/phishing-attack-alert-2026/
Explore the latestphishingattack trends affectingUKusers in2026, including AI-drivenphishingemails, fake loginscams, credential theft tactics, and expert prevention strategies.

AI-Powered Phishing & Deepfake Scams in 2026: How Social Engineering Is ...
https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ai-powered-phishing-deepfake-scams-2026-how-social-engineering-8529c
Payroll fraud, credential theft, ransomware delivery, and financial wire transferscamsare all increasingly initiated through AI-enhancedsocialengineering.

Top internet scams in United Kingdom 2025-2026 - wonconnect.org.uk

https://www.wonconnect.org.uk/top-internet-scams-in-united-kingdom-2025-2026/

Top internetscamsin United Kingdom 2025-2026. Over the next two years, you will face evolving online schemes across the United Kingdom; this guide shows how you can spotphishing, AI-generated deepfake

Deepfake & AI Phishing UK 2026: Stop Voice-Clone CEO Fraud

https://connection-technologies.co.uk/blog/deepfake-ai-phishing-uk-business-guide-2026

HowUKbusinesses stop deepfakescams, voice-clone CEO fraud and AIphishingin2026— vishing training, verification protocols and insurance that pays.

3. Initial Access Broker (IAB) Watchlist

IAB listings are predictive indicators of imminent enterprise breaches. Monitoring these on dark web forums provides early warning of which UK organizations may be targeted for network intrusion.

Listings Found (Dark Web + Clearnet)

Hackers Leverage Telegram for Initial Access to Corporate VPN, RDP, and ...
https://cybersecuritynews.com/hackers-leverage-telegram-for-initial-access/
InitialAccessBrokers, commonly called IABs, use dedicated channels to advertise stolen credentials and verified entry points intocorporateVPNportals, Remote Desktop Protocol sessions, and cloud platfo

Strategic Analysis: The 2026 Initial Access Broker Ecosystem
https://aetherintelops.substack.com/p/strategic-analysis-the-2026-initial
TheRDP/VPNDominance: Despite enhanced multi-factor authentication (MFA) adoption, compromisedRDPandVPNcredentials remain the primary commodities, accounting for over 60% of observed listings. Pricing

Initial Access Brokers Target Enterprises, Raise Prices
https://socprime.com/active-threats/initial-access-brokers-target-enterprises/
Summary Rapid7's review of H2 2025 listings across five cybercrime forums suggestsInitialAccessBrokersare shifting toward larger enterprises and charging more for higher-privilege footholds. Privilege

Hackers are using Telegram to sell access to corporate VPN, RDP, and ...
https://vpncentral.com/hackers-are-using-telegram-to-sell-access-to-corporate-vpn-rdp-and-cloud-accounts/
CYFIRMA said in a February 2026 report that underground markets and Telegram-basedinitialaccessbrokerchannels showed a sustained rise in listings tied to infostealer logs, includingaccesstocorporateVP

Initial Access Brokers: How Threat Actors Breach Enterprise Perimeters ...
https://ismalicious.com/posts/initial-access-brokers-attack-vectors-2026
A deep dive intoinitialaccessbrokers(IABs)—the cybercrime specialists who sell footholds intocorporatenetworks—covering their techniques, pricing, detection signals, and how to defend against the top

Initial Access Brokers (IAB) in 2025 - From Dark Web Listings to Supply ...
https://www.darknet.org.uk/2025/11/initial-access-brokers-iab-in-2025-from-dark-web-listings-to-supply-chain-ransomware-events/
InitialAccessBrokers(IABs) have moved from niche forum actors to central wholesalers in the ransomware supply chain. Rather than breaking in and deploying payloads themselves, they specialise in compr

Initial Access Brokers (IABs): How Hackers Sell Access to Corporate ...
https://securifyai.co/blog/intial-access-brokers-how-hackers-sell-access-to-corporate-networks/
InitialAccessBrokeractivities typically target enterprise infrastructure across multiple environments. Platforms commonly targetedCorporateVPNportals Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) servers Cloud infras

Hackers Exploit Telegram for Initial Access to Corporate VPN, RDP, and ...
https://malwaretips.com/threads/hackers-exploit-telegram-for-initial-access-to-corporate-vpn-rdp-and-cloud-systems.140021/
Hackers are increasingly abusing Telegram as aninitialaccessmarketplace, turning stealer logs and leaked credentials into direct entry points forcorporateVPN,RDP, and cloud environments. The platform

Initial Access Brokers: Mapping the Cybercrime Ecosystem That Sells ...
https://decipheru.com/cybersecurity/research/initial-access-broker-ecosystem-2024
What did this cybersecurity research find? This cybersecurity threat intelligence study tracked 1,200initialaccessbroker(IAB) listings across dark web forums over 18 months to analyze pricing,accessty

PDFInitial Access Brokers Report - e.cyberint.com
https://e.cyberint.com/hubfs/IAB%20Report%202025.pdf
BrokerstargetingRDPsystems sellaccesstocorporateservers compromised through brute-force attacks on unprotected systems with weak credentials. Finally,brokersexploit known vulnerabilities in network de

ℹ Monitoring Recommendation

Add specific UK sector keywords (NHS, .gov.uk, FTSE 100, critical infrastructure) for more targeted IAB monitoring. Current queries cover general IAB activity.

4. Ransomware — UK Victim Monitoring

i LLM Threat Analysis

Dark Web Intelligence Report
Query: ransomware UK victims leak data 2026
Sources: 11 results
Onion Services: 0

Key Findings:
• HIGH SEVERITY: 2 critical threat indicators detected

Threat Assessment:
Ransomware operations — April 2026 Ransomware Report: 772 Victims, 70 Groups
Stolen data/cards — April 2026 Ransomware Report: 772 Victims, 70 Groups
Phishing infrastructure — Cyber security breaches survey 2025/2026 - GOV.UK

Recommendation: IMMEDIATE ACTION: High-severity threats detected. Further investigation recommended. Do not interact with flagged services without pro

Leak Sites & Discussions

April 2026 Ransomware Report: 772 Victims, 70 Groups
https://www.breachsense.com/ransomware-reports/april-2026/
April2026ransomwarenumbers at a glance After March's spike, April pulled back slightly. Here's what changed.Ransomwareleaksitesare dark web pages whereransomwareoperators publish stolendatafromvictims

Ransomware Attacks 2026: Victims and Groups Tracker | PurpleOps
https://purple-ops.io/blog/ransomware-tracker-2026
Which organisations were hit byransomwarein2026.Victimdisclosures, attack reports, and threat actor activity tracked by PurpleOps acrossleaksites and actor channels.

Ransomware Live Summary
https://www.ransomware.live/summary/
Ransomware.live tracksransomwaregroups and their activity. It was created by Julien Mousqueton, a security researcher. The website provides information on the groups' infrastructure,victims, and payme

1111 victims for United Kingdom - ransomware.live
https://www.ransomware.live/map/GB
Ransomware.live tracksransomwaregroups and their activity. It was created by Julien Mousqueton, a security researcher. The website provides information on the groups' infrastructure,victims, and payme

June 2026 Ransomware Report: 707 Victims, 63 Groups
https://www.breachsense.com/ransomware-reports/june-2026/
Here's what the June2026numbers tell us. June2026ransomwarenumbers at a glance June's numbers bounced back. Morevictims, more groups, more countries. But the real shift was in the rankings.Ransomwarel

Who Ransomware Groups Hit in the UK in Febru… | SOC in a Box Blog
https://www.socinabox.co.uk/blog/uk-ransomware-victims-february-2026-analysis
Ransomware.live recorded 12 confirmedUKvictimsin February2026. Analysing who was hit, how large they were, and what sectors were targeted reveals a pattern that challenges the assumption that small bu

2026 Ransomware Report: 7,551 Victims, Up 24.9%
https://blackkite.com/reports/2026-ransomware-report
Black Kite tracked 7,551ransomwarevictimsin2026, a 24.9% jump. See where risk concentrated most and what stayed exposed long after disclosure closed.

The Gentlemen Ransomware: 483 Victims, 90% Cut [2026]
https://tech-insider.org/the-gentlemen-ransomware-2026/
The Gentlemenransomwarehit 483victimswith a 90% affiliate cut in2026, then got hacked. Inside theleak, attribution, and defense.

Cyber security breaches survey 2025/2026 - GOV.UK
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cyber-security-breaches-survey-20252026/cyber-security-breaches-survey-20252026
Ransomwareattacks among businesses have declined compared with the previous two years (1% this year down from 3% in both

2024/2025 and 2023/2024) and phishing attacks and impersonation breaches ...

Ransomnews: Ransomware News & Live Leak-Site Tracking

https://ransomnews.com/

Ransomwarenews, threat-actor profiles and a liveleak-site tracker covering 29,000+ claimedvictims. Independent reporting on the cybercrime economy.

5. Stolen UK Credentials & Data Dumps

Over 15 billion compromised credentials are now in circulation globally. UK financial credentials remain a high-value target on dark web forums.

Estimated Dark Web Pricing (UK-Specific)

- Single SSN / National Insurance Number: £1–£3
- Full identity profile (Fullz): £10–£100+
- Stolen UK credit card details: £5–£20
- UK corporate network access (VPN/RDP): £800–£40,000+
- Bank account with online access: £50–£500

Recent Listings

UK Domains Private Dump Leaks 33,276 Passwords | HEROIC
https://heroic.com/darkhive-breaches/uk-domains-private-dump-33276-credentials-exposed/
What Was Exposed This leak included the followingdatatypes: Email addresses tied toUKdomains Plaintext passwords URLs linked to each set ofcredentialsWhy This Matters With 33,276UK-focusedcredentialsi

24 Billion Credentials Leaked: What Happened [2026]
https://tech-insider.org/24-billion-credentials-leaked-2026/
A publicly exposed Elasticsearch database leaked 24 billionstolencredentialsin June 2026, one of the largest infostealer log compilations on record.

What to Do After the 24 Billion Records Data Dump | PrivacyOn
https://www.privacyon.com/blog/what-to-do-after-the-24-billion-records-data-dump
What makes thisdumpespecially dangerous is its heavy weighting toward fresh infostealer logs rather than older, recycled breachdata. Many of thesecredentialsmay still be active, giving attackers real-

What to do if your identity has been stolen - Stop! Think Fraud
https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/recovery-from-fraud/recovering-losses/what-to-do-if-your-identity-has-been-stolen/
What to do if your identity has beenstolenIdentity theft is the act of stealing someone's personal and financial information. They might find this information online, steal physical documents such as

Data breaches | National Cyber Security Centre
https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/respond-recover/citizen-data-breaches
You should also be alert for suspicious messages after a breach has occurred, as cyber criminals may try to take advantage of it. Yourbankor other official organisations will neverask you for personal

DataBreach.com | Check If Your Information Was Exposed
https://databreach.com/
Find out if your personal information was compromised indatabreaches. Search your email on DataBreach.com to see where yourdatawas leaked and learn how to protect yourself.

What to do after a data breach: Step-by-step guide for UK victims
https://jointheclaim.com/guide/what-to-do-after-data-breach-uk-guide/
AccountTakeover Scams: Criminals use your leakedcredentialsto access youraccounts, locking you out and potentially demanding payment to restore access. Investment and Romance Scams:Using yourstolendat

What steps can I take if I've been affected by a personal data breach ...
https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/i-m-worried-an-organisation-hasn-t-kept-my-information-safe-what-should-i-do/what-steps-can-i-take-if-i-ve-been-affected-by-a-p
Report details of lost orstolendocuments, such as passports, driving licences, credit cards and cheque books to the organisation that issued them. Check yourbankstatements and get a copy of your credi

HackCheck | Data Breach Search Engine
https://hackcheck.io/
HackCheck allows users to monitor specificcredentials, such as email addresses, usernames, passwords, and more, and sends alerts whenever thosecredentialsare spotted in a newdatabreach.

Life After a Breach: Where Stolen Data Goes - Intercede
https://www.intercede.com/life-after-a-breach-where-stolen-data-goes/
When adatabreach occurs, thestoleninformation doesn't just vanish, it becomes a valuable asset in the cybercriminal underworld. Oncecredentials, financial details, or personal information are revealed

6. Scam-as-a-Service Offerings

Crimeware-as-a-Service has matured into a professional industry with escrow, dispute resolution, and vendor ratings. Entry-level phishing kits cost $50–$200. AI voice cloning services: £50–£200 per cloned voice.

Deepfake & AI Phishing UK 2026: Stop Voice-Clone CEO Fraud

https://connection-technologies.co.uk/blog/deepfake-ai-phishing-uk-business-guide-2026

HowUKbusinesses stop deepfakescams,voice-clone CEO fraud andAIphishingin 2026 — vishing training, verification protocols and insurance that pays.

AI Voice Cloning Scam UK: A Call That Isn't Them

https://beatthescam.com/guides/ai-voice-cloning-scam-uk/

What anAIvoicecloningscamlooks like Thisscamis a phone call using anAI-generated copy of a real person'svoice— often a family member — claiming an emergency and asking for money urgently.

AI Voice Cloning Scams UK 2025-2026: How They Work and How to Stay Safe ...

https://www.whoiscalling.me.uk/scams/ai-voice-cloning

AIvoicecloninguses 3 seconds of audio to clone avoicewith 85% accuracy. Find out how thesescamswork in theUKand how to protect yourself.

AI Phishing Attacks on UK Businesses: 2026 Guide

https://www.grit-consultancy.com/ai-phishing-attacks-uk-businesses/

HowAIvoicescamstargetUKbusinessesVoicecloningscamsare real and they now targetUKbusinesses. Criminals copy avoicefrom a few seconds of public audio. They lift it from voicemail greetings, webinars, Yo

New AI voice cloning scam to look out for - Friends Against Scams

https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/news-and-updates/new-ai-voice-cloning-scam-to-look-out-for

The advancedvoicecloningis part of an organised criminal operation that harvests people's personal data to target victims with a wave ofscamand nuisance calls. The process begins with a so-called 'lif

AI Voice Scams UK: How to Spot a Fake Call - wellwired.ai

https://wellwired.ai/blog/ai-voice-scams

One in fourscamcalls now uses anAI-clonedvoice. Learn howUKAIvoicescamswork, the warning signs, and the exact steps to take if you get one.

Voice cloning scams - Police Scotland

https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice/scams-and-frauds/voice-cloning-scams/

How to report avoicecloningscamWhat to do ifvoicecloningscamshappens Get support from other organisations Ways to preventvoicecloningscamsWhatvoicecloningscamsareVoicecloningscamsare when someone uses

AI Voice Scams: How Voice Cloning Is Used by Cybercriminals

https://veridas.com/en/ai-voice-scams/

Learn howAIvoicecloningfuels phonescams, what criminals can do with yourvoice, and how to protect yourself from theseAI-powered threats.

AI Voice Cloning Scams: Detection and Prevention Guide

https://www.adaptivesecurity.com/blog/the-ultimate-guide-to-ai-voice-cloning-scams-how-to-detect-prevent-and-protect-against-them

Learn how to detect and preventAIvoicecloningscamswith our ultimate guide. Protect your organization from emerging threats and strengthen defenses.

AI Clone Phishing: How AI Voice and Video Impersonation Scams Work and ...

https://www.adaptivesecurity.com/blog/ai-clone-phishing-guide

AIclonephishingreplaces the volume model of traditionalphishingwith hyper-personalized impersonation that removes every surface signal employees were taught to look for. TheAIclonephishinglifecycle ru

ℹ Telegram Convergence

Scam-as-a-service increasingly operates through Telegram channels as a bridge between dark web forums and mainstream messaging. Your existing Telegram bot infrastructure could be leveraged to monitor these channels.

7. UK Phishing Infrastructure

UK-specific phishing kits target HSBC, Barclays, Lloyds, Santander, and Nationwide. SMS spoofing services target O2, EE, Vodafone, and Three customers. 140% increase in phishing attacks recorded in 2025.

UK Scam & Phishing Prevention Guide: 2026 Edition

https://cyberawareuk.co.uk/scam-phishing-prevention-guide-2026

The plain-EnglishUKscam andphishingprevention guide for2026: how to spotphishingtexts and emails, the top scams targetingUKfamilies, and exactly what to do if you are targeted. Free, human-verified an

13 Phishing Simulation Templates for 2026 - Keepnet

https://keepnetlabs.com/blog/phishing-simulation-templates

Thirteenphishingsimulationtemplatesfor2026, including BEC, QR code, callback, smishing and deepfake voice, with subject line examples.

Smishing in 2026 — SMS Phishing Attacks and How to Stop Them

https://hackershub.com/awareness/phishing/smishing/

Smishing isphishingdelivered bySMSor mobile messaging. In2026the four dominant pretexts are package-delivery scams,bank-fraud alerts, tax-refund or fine notices, and corporate IT-helpdesk lures.SMSbyp

10 Smishing Text Message Scams to Watch For in 2026 (And How to Spot Them)

https://www.cybersierra.co/blog/identify-smishing-scams-2026

2026'smost dangerous smishing scams exposed: Learn to identify and preventSMSphishingattacks targeting yourbankaccount, personal data, and financial security. Expert protection guide.

Scam Texts UK (2026) — Spot a Fake Text & Report It Free to 7726 ...

https://connection-technologies.co.uk/blog/scam-texts-uk-how-to-spot-check-report

Got a suspicious text? See the scam texts circulating in theUK, check the sender free, and report smishing to 7726 in seconds. Stay ahead of fraudsters.

Bank Scams 2026: Threats, Trends, and Fraud Prevention Strategies for ...

https://ironvest.com/blog/banking-scams-guide-2026/

An in-depth2026guide tobankscams and banking fraud types shaping the financial sector. Examine real-world tactics, current solution challenges, and next-gen fraud prevention solutions.

SMS spoofing: What it is & how to protect yourself - Norton™

https://uk.norton.com/blog/mobile/sms-spoofing

Learn aboutSMSspoofingand how scammers can disguise their phone number to trick you into revealing information.

Phishing Trends Report (Updated for 2026) - Hoxhunt

https://hoxhunt.com/guide/phishing-trends-report

Stay ahead of cyber threats with our2026phishingtrends report. Featuring insights from 4M user clicks across 50Mphishingsimulations and real attacks.

Phishing, SMS Scams and Fake Regulators: Fraud's Sharpest Edges in 2026

https://news.codegotech.com/phishing-sms-scams-fake-regulators-fraud-threats-2026/

What This Means for Financial Institutions in2026The picture drawn by this data is one of sustained, structurally embedded fraud risk rather than a cyclical spike. Three categories —phishing, gambling

SMS Spoofing & Phishing - How to Protect Your Business

https://messageflow.com/blog/sms-spoofing-phishing/

SMSspoofingmeans impersonating a sender to trick recipients. Learn how to recognize smishing attacks and how verified RCS messaging protects your customers.

8. Sources & Methodology

Search Engines Used

- ahmia (via Tor)
- duckduckgo (via Tor)

Sources Referenced

- BioCatch (2026) Digital Banking Fraud Trends in the UK
- Which? (2026) Scams expert report
- IBS Intelligence (April 2026) UK bank fraud surge
- HelpNetSecurity — Dark web activity research (2026)
- Searchlight Cyber — Dark web trends (2025-2026)
- Prey Project — Dark web statistics 2025
- CrowdStrike — Dark web explained
- OnionClaw — 10 engine Tor-routed search

This report is generated by an automated pipeline using OnionClaw (Tor-routed dark web search), LLM analysis, and clearnet intelligence aggregation. Dark web search engines are ephemeral; result availability varies by scan cycle. DuckDuckGo via Tor is used as the most reliable fallback. Generated: 07 September 2026 00:00 UK time.

9. Free Intel Enrichments (OnionClaw+)

The following enrichment data was gathered using free OSINT APIs (IntelX, Have I Been Pwned, URLhaus). No paid services required.

Archive & Trend Tracking

- Search results archived: 880
- Search sessions completed: 107
- Unique queries tracked: 6
- Pipeline runs executed: 13

Top Trending Keywords (Last 30 Days)

- initial access brokers (iab): 50 mentions
- ransomware — uk victims: 50 mentions
- scam-as-a-service: 50 mentions
- stolen uk credentials: 50 mentions
- uk phishing infrastructure: 50 mentions

URLhaus Malicious URL Checks

ℹ Free Enrichment Sources

IntelX (intelx.io) — free leaked data search | Have I Been Pwned — free breach lookup (rate-limited) | URLhaus (abuse.ch) — free malware URL feed | SQLite archive — local trend tracking