

Global cost of cybercrime topped \$6 trillion in 2021: defence firm

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The global cost of cybercrime topped \$6 trillion last year, as the coronavirus pandemic caused online activity to soar, the head of Italian defence, security and aerospace giant Leonardo said Tuesday.

"New cybersecurity threats over the last two years have been a 'collateral damage' of the COVID-19 pandemic and the acceleration of digitalisation it induced," Alessandro Profumo said at the opening of the Cybertech Europe 2022 conference in Rome.

"Cyberattacks have grown in number, sophistication and impact—in 2021 the global cost of cybercrime exceeded \$6 trillion."

Leonardo said the figures came from Clusit, the Italian association for information security, which had cited a report from US group Cybersecurity Ventures.

Clusit estimated a loss of \$1 trillion in 2020.

One fifth of the total attacks was directed at Europe, Profumo said, but the continent lacked at least 200,000 cybersecurity professionals.

Speaking to foreign journalists in Rome last month, he said cybersecurity issues had increased following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"We are noticing additional pressure," said the boss of Leonardo, which has a specialised branch dedicated to cybersecurity.

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