

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS STUDY

Recently, the National Cyber Security Alliance commissioned a study with Zogby International and Symantec to identify gaps between the perceptions and the realities of America's cyber security. Zogby International polled more than 3,000 Americans and Symantec's PC Help by Norton conducted manual scans of 400 Americans' personal computers.

Spam Filters

- Perception: 75 percent said they were using spam filters
- Reality: Only 52 percent had spam filters installed on their computers

Anti-Virus Software

- Perception: 93 percent said they were using anti-virus software
- Reality: 95 percent had anti-virus software installed on their computers

Anti-Spyware Software

- Perception: 83 percent said they were using anti-Spyware software
- Reality: 82 percent had anti-Spyware software installed on their computers

Firewall Software

- Perception: 81 percent said they were using a firewall
- Reality: 42 percent had a firewall installed on their computer

Other Poll Results

- 26 percent felt that their computers were "very safe" from viruses, and only 21 percent said their computers were "very safe" from hacker attacks
- 54 percent have had their computers infected by a virus
- Almost 50 percent of respondents do not know how to determine if a Web site is safe before visiting it
- 51 percent said they have been a victim of a phishing attempt, with 65 percent saying the attempts looked like legitimate emails.

(The Zogby poll has a margin of error of +/- 1.6% and the scan has a margin of error of +/- 5%.)