

A woman with long brown hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored blouse, is leaning over a wooden table in a meeting. She is pointing at a document with her right hand. The table is cluttered with various papers, a spiral notebook, a pen, and a small potted plant. In the background, there is a computer monitor and a window. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor office environment.

Year in Review
2020



NORD
SECURITY

Table of contents:

Welcome word	2
Nord Security launch	5
Advisory Board: Partnership with Troy Hunt and Tammarrian Rogers	
Transparency	6
VPN Trust Initiative	
Second no-logs policy audit	
Bug bounty policy	
Second app security	
NordPass audit	
Social responsibility	8
Support to communities and NGOs	
New focus — empowering girls and women in the digital age	
Internet freedom and human rights	
Supporting social causes	
Testimonials by NGOs	
COVID-19 response	13
“Stay safe” campaign: Free cybersecurity products for educators, NGOs, and content creators	
Testimonials	
Service improvements	14
Launch of Nord account for all brands	15
NordVPN	
NordPass	
NordLocker	
NordVPN Teams	
Research department	19
Growing impact	22
Blog: most popular posts	22
Media coverage around the world	23
Awards and recognition	24
Thank you page	25

A letter from the co-founders

It's a cliché to say that 2020 was a year like no other, but it's true nonetheless. COVID-19 upended the world. The virus has changed how things work, so we've changed how we work. We made a company-wide switch to working from home but kept our offices open for those who could not work remotely. The move mostly prevented the spread of the virus inside the company.

Seeing the devastation outside, we couldn't react by only changing what's inside. The pandemic sparked a wave of online crimes. As an internet security company, we felt that we had to lend a helping hand. We launched a "Stay safe" campaign: 6 free months of NordVPN, NordPass, and NordLocker to nonprofit organizations, content creators, and institutions of higher education affected by the pandemic.

A third unpleasant C alongside COVID-19 and Cybercrime was worldwide internet censorship. We received over 7,000 Emergency VPN requests from journalists and human rights activists regarding extreme restrictions of internet freedom. Aiming to build a better future, we partnered with Women4Cyber, WiCyS, and WISP — women's organizations that support the participation of women in cybersecurity.

Thankfully, 2020 was not all doom and gloom. The year brought many changes to our company, the first of which was the launch of Nord Security. We evolved, though we can't definitely say this is our final form. We started as a VPN provider, and now we're an internet security company. All our products — NordVPN, NordVPN Teams, NordPass, and NordLocker — are comfortably tucked under the Nord Security blanket.

We were proud to add Troy Hunt and Tammarran Rogers to our advisory board. We finally launched our [engineering blog](#). And we set up a shiny research department, which came up with new improvements and tech solutions for our products, offered countless insights, and improved our understanding of what our users want and need.

Let's hope for a year with fewer worldwide emergencies.

Stay safe.



Tom Okman
Founder



Eimantas Sabaliauskas
Co-founder



The numbers

220+

organizations, educators, and creators supported in response to the COVID-19 crisis

1150+

NordVPN licenses donated

1000+

emergency VPN access requests granted

2020 in a nutshell

January: Supported Access Now Helpline and NullCon.

February: Sponsored TEDx Manchester.

March: Supported Youth Europa; supported for the humanitarian raid 4L Trophy.

April: Launched the “Stay safe” campaign.

May: Provided free licenses to Hong Kong activists; supported the European Journalism Centre and Bullying Canada.

June: Signed the Internet freedom petition; launched the Cyber Risk Index.

July: Sponsored RightsCon.

August: Sponsored a team in DEFCON; started a strategic partnership with Troy Hunt.

September: Partnered with Internet Freedom Festival for their VPN village contest; together with VPN Trust Initiative released core principles.

October: Sponsored Hack It Better; partnered with Women4Cyber and EDRi.

November: Sponsored Openhack and IEEE-IIITD's TechWeek; participated in 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

December: Nord Security launch! A strategic partnership with Tammarri-an Rogers. National Privacy Test and a cybersecurity eBook. Interviewed Invisible Borders. Supported the EDRi fundraising campaign. Launched the second COVID-19 support campaign.

Introducing Nord Security

Last year, we launched Nord Security, an umbrella brand for our cybersecurity products:



NordVPN®

the world's leading VPN



NordVPN | Teams

a VPN solution for businesses



NordPass®

an intuitive password manager



NordLocker®

a secure cloud solution

Nord Security marks our ambition to provide our users with all the necessary internet security tools.

The advisory board

Nord Security is assembling an advisory board of independent experts from different fields, including technology specialists, scholars, and experts with background in digital privacy and security. We'll rely on the board's expertise to create future-focused security products while remaining transparent and truthful in our messaging. Troy Hunt, a web security legend and the creator of haveibeenpwned.com, and Tammarrian Rogers, director of engineering in Snap and CTO in OPTIVA, joined the board in 2020.

Transparency

Setting the standard for the industry

In 2019, NordVPN became a founding member of i2Coalition's VPN Trust Initiative (VTI), which aims to establish an industry-wide quality standard for VPN services and educate the public about the benefits of VPNs. Nord Security founder Tom Okman has recently joined i2Coalition's Board of Directors.

In 2020, the Initiative made a big step forward by establishing the [key best principles](#) all VTI members have agreed to follow. Now consumers can be sure that no matter what VPN they choose, if it's a member of the VTI, it will meet the initiative's core principles.

Security

VTI members use robust encryption and authentication protocols as well as token-based authentication. Members are transparent about the safety measures they use and never store usernames or passwords in plain text.

Privacy

A VPN protects user privacy in all aspects of the VPN service. That is, members provide clear logging policies and operate transparently by, among other things, informing about VPN tech limitations and what user information they collect.

Advertising practices

Members are honest about what kind of digital protection and level of security their product provides.

Disclosure and transparency

Members are open about their practices and procedures and clear about what they collect and how they use user data. Members adhere to the data regulations of their jurisdiction.

Social responsibility

Members support the security and freedom of the internet by educating the public and supporting the freedom of expression. Members contribute to the advancement of the VPN industry and share their best practices with other technology providers.

Independent audits of our products

NordVPN no-logs policy assurance engagement

In 2018, NordVPN was the first VPN provider in the industry to verify no-logs claims by going through a third-party assurance engagement. It was conducted by a Big Four auditor — PricewaterhouseCoopers AG Switzerland (PwC Switzerland).

In 2020, we went through a second examination. PwC Switzerland once again confirmed NordVPN does not monitor its users' internet activity. However, this assurance engagement was much broader than the first one. PwC Switzerland's practitioners also interviewed our employees and inspected server configurations, technical logs, and specialized servers like obfuscated servers, Double VPN servers, and P2P servers. We made the report accessible to all our users.

NordVPN app security audit

Our strategic security partner VerSprite conducted an independent third-party penetration test of our NordVPN Android, iOS, Windows, macOS, and Linux apps (including sideload). The primary objective of the test was to identify high impact vulnerabilities within the applications that could lead to exploitation, theft of confidential user data, and overall privilege escalation.

There were 1 high, 4 medium, and 10 low vulnerabilities found. Most of them have been fixed. Once we fix the rest, VerSprite will validate our patches, and we will publish the report. None of the discovered vulnerabilities constituted a significant risk to the app or user data. The full report will be made available to NordVPN users.

NordPass penetration test

NordPass went through an independent security audit by a third-party auditor and penetration tester. We chose a white-box methodology for the audit. We provided the testers with access to various NordPass materials, documentation, source code, and other data.

The testers reviewed the cryptographic premise as well as pen tested and audited the source code of the software along with the NordPass background application and its codebase. The auditors found nine vulnerabilities and eight issues of low potential of exploitation.

We fixed all issues, and the testers confirmed that the fixes were appropriate. The auditors were *“impressed with the efforts [the NordPass team put] into minimizing the attack surface, which has clearly been a notable priority.”*

Bug bounty policy

In 2019, NordVPN launched a bug bounty program, which invited cybersecurity experts to report any bugs, flaws, or vulnerabilities they found in the service for a financial reward.

In 2020, we closed a total of 741 bug reports:

72 Resolved	90 Duplicate	275 Informative	301 Not Applicable	3 Spam
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The severity of the reported bugs

2 critical	3 high	14 medium	51 low	8 none
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We’ve rewarded 85 reports for a total of \$16,250 in bounties. 53% of the reports concerned [NordVPN.com](https://nordvpn.com) web for a total of \$8,050 in bounties. All of the reported vulnerabilities have been fixed. To our knowledge, none of them were exploited in the wild.



Social responsibility

Support to communities and NGOs

In 2020, we witnessed an increase in cyberattacks, extreme cases of censorship, and online privacy violations. We've always believed in a free internet, safe from surveillance and censorship. So, last year we worked hard to help and support activists, journalists, human rights defenders, and NGOs.

In 2020, NordVPN received over 7,100 Emergency VPN access requests. The main cases came from Iran, Hong Kong, Venezuela, and other countries with internet censorship and heavy surveillance. We received 175 requests from journalists — most of the cases were related to the China-Hong Kong situation.

We donated more than 470 VPN licenses to support NGOs and activists fighting in Hong Kong. Over 1,150 VPN licenses were provided as in-kind donations to various organizations and initiatives. In addition to these donations, we contributed more than \$100,000 to nonprofit organizations like Access Now's Digital Security Helpline, Open Rights Group, Cybercrime Support Network, European Digital Rights, and others.

New focus: empowering girls and women in the digital age

We believe that women and girls have an important role in building fair, prosperous, inclusive, and peaceful communities all around the world. That's why last year we focused on female empowerment, especially when it comes to cybersecurity.

We started a partnership with [Women4Cyber](#), a non-profit European foundation that promotes, encourages, and supports the participation of women in the field of cybersecurity. We also started new partnerships with two women's organizations in the USA — [WiCyS](#) and [WISP](#). These organizations work to empower girls and women in cybersecurity.

We also worked to raise awareness of gender-based online violence. A recent UN report shows that 1 in 5 teenagers in Europe experience cyberbullying, and females across continents are 27 times more likely to be harassed online. You can read our recent [article](#) on how to fight gender-based online violence.

Internet freedom and human rights in digital age

In August, NordVPN once again sponsored and participated in [RightsCon](#), the world's leading summit on human rights in the digital age. RightsCon brings together business leaders, policy makers, general counsels, technologists, advocates, academics, government representatives, and journalists from around the world to tackle the most pressing issues at the intersection of human rights and technology. In 2020, the RightsCon moved to an online platform. It was a historic event: 7,681 participants from 157 countries across the world.

In the fall of 2020, NordVPN sponsored and participated in the [Internet Freedom Festival \(IFF\)](#). It was held as a VPN Village online event, which cultivated conversations for those who are researching, distributing, or using VPNs. Workshops and training were centered around addressing the impact of VPNs on the internet freedom community. The Village has made a space where civil society, developers, activists, and VPN companies can come together and discuss what matters.



We partnered with TED for the second time and joined their TEDxManchester event as a sponsor. This helped us reach a more diverse audience and promote cybersecurity awareness.

Hackathons is another area we've been continuously supporting. These workshops are essential in developing new countermeasures to cyberthreats and building software solutions to solve issues related to healthcare, community, and the environment. So far, we've sponsored three hackathons — Hack It Better, Openhack, and Elysium as well as a team in DefCon.

We published our first interview with [Invisible Borders](#), one of the organizations we support. We hope to publish more interviews in the future and shine a spotlight on people fighting for online freedom.

Supporting social causes

We partnered with [EDRI](#) and sponsored their fundraising campaign. EDRI is the largest network in Europe fighting for online rights and freedom. This group of experts promotes internet democracy and opposes surveillance capitalism exercised by big tech companies. Their focus on privacy protection and the idea of an open and inclusive internet reflect our core values.

We donated VPN accounts to [Justice and Care](#), a non-profit that works on rescuing victims of slavery and human trafficking. It seeks to uncover and dismantle criminal networks and spark systemic change.

[Digital Security Helpline](#) works with individuals and organizations around the world to keep them safe online. In 2020, thousands of vulnerable actors contacted the hotline from 123 different countries, including Iran, Tunisia, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, and Syria. We were honored to sponsor the hotline and hope to continue our fruitful partnership with its founder [AccessNow](#), a nonprofit dedicated to a free and open internet.

We continued our work with Cyber Support Network, an organization that helps individuals and small businesses affected by cybercrime in the US. We sponsored its project fraudsupport.org, which provides guidance on how to protect yourself or your business from cyber fraud and what to do after suffering an attack.

We signed the [Safe Internet Freedom](#) petition to prevent the dismantling of [the Open Technology Fund](#), an independent organization advancing global internet freedom.

Our priority is education and digital awareness. We launched two educational initiatives to increase cyber awareness: the [National Privacy Test](#) and a free [ebook](#). The former allows you to check your security know-how and improve it, while the latter provides you with basic cybersecurity terms in a simple and playful form.

We supported Adrien Mialon and Mathias Deroubaix, two students from the University of Technology of Troyes, in 4L Trophy, the world's biggest rally for those under 28. The participants of the rally provided school supplies to Moroccan children, and, thanks to the 4L Trophy initiative, more than 15,000 children have been able to attend school.



“The cause was really important for us, as we believe that education should be accessible to everyone. In addition to that, it is a great experience which we’re sure we will remember for the rest of our lives,” said Adrien and Mathias.

NordPass raised awareness of [digital mental health](#). Today, we can barely imagine our lives without a laptop or smartphone. We work, shop, bank, and interact online more than ever. It’s time we faced it — technology has a tremendous influence on our mental health and directly affects the way we feel, think, and act.

Testimonials by NGOs

“ With a remote team, NordVPN provides us with the freedom to operate with digital autonomy, so our team can get the job done knowing their online environment is secure. NordPass allows us to operate in a secure remote environment, without reducing our ability to make an impact. Nord’s services are fundamental to helping TechInclusionUK succeed and we’re grateful for their support and services.”

TechInclusionUK

“ BullyingCanada is constantly looking for ways to ensure the security of its sensitive data—from case notes that are used to resolve bullying situations on behalf of vulnerable children to financial information from their supporters—and NordVPN is one layer of that security. Especially in the time of COVID, when we’re all relying on Wi-Fi, it’s important that we can be confident in the security of our connections. Using the encryption provided by NordVPN, BullyingCanada ensures the integrity of its most confidential information.

BullyingCanada

“ In modern society, it's not only important to stay physically safe but also to stay safe on the internet. NordVPN has helped Youth Europa share invaluable knowledge about online safety with the younger generations and protect the sensitive data which we work with on a daily basis. We are grateful for the support which we have received as it helps us continue our mission towards the better future.

Youth Europe

“ NordVPN is the most powerful tool in the frontline, when you're fighting for freedom of expression and against dangerous well-trained trolls of dictatorships. We feel safe and protected for having NordVPN on our side.

United Sketches

“ It is known that Hong Kong people no longer enjoy the same degree of freedom of speech when compared to the past, the members of our Society also concerned with this matter and they would like to use your VPN product to avoid any tracking on their message when transferring to the other parties, this certainly protects them from being monitored. Therefore, your VPN product is effective to safeguard the students’ right to use the Internet.

Education Society, The Hong Kong University Students’ Union

COVID-19 response

“Stay safe” campaign

Many governments took advantage of the pandemic to increase surveillance, data collection, and censorship. Worldwide quarantines and lockdowns forced everyone online and ushered in an era of remote learning. All of this increased the risk of becoming a victim of online surveillance or a cyberattack.

That's why Nord Security launched the “Stay safe” campaign. We offered 6 months of free online security tools (NordVPN, NordPass, and NordLocker) to nonprofit organizations, content creators, and educators suffering from the COVID-19 crisis.

Educators and nonprofits working in countries under lockdown or other serious COVID-related restrictions were — and are — eligible to apply.

Testimonials

“ I just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you amazing people keeping the Nord family alive! Thank you so much for your support and help. God bless you all!

Emel, National University

“ I am a graduate university student in the dissertation phase and on behalf of my request I was provided with a free 6 months subscription to NordVPN services. While doing my academic research, NordVPN services enable me easy access to scholarly websites, archives, and online resources from all parts of the world.

Beril, Middle East Technical University





Service improvements

Nord account

Nord Account unified the login and sign-up process across all Nord Security products. Thanks to Nord Account, our users can manage all our services from a single place and log in with a single click. With this launch, we unified our Privacy Policy and Terms of Service, which are now also [accessible in one place](#).

NordVPN

NordLynx

For NordVPN, 2020 was the year of major technical upgrades. The first among them was NordLynx.

It's an extra-fast VPN tunneling solution built on the backbone of WireGuard®, a protocol that utilizes state-of-the-art cryptography and insanely lean architecture. With only 4,000 lines of code, WireGuard® is relatively easy to deploy, audit, and debug.

WireGuard® was a perfect match for NordVPN. To properly implement it, we developed a double Network Address Translation system, which helped to establish a secure VPN connection and allowed us not to store any identifiable user data on a server. That's how NordLynx was born.

We performed 256,886 speed tests, and the result was clear — NordLynx is the fastest NordVPN protocol.

Upgraded servers

To make NordVPN even faster and more secure, we initiated an ambitious server upgrade program. In cooperation with cybersecurity consultants at VerSprite, we have set tighter security standards for the data centers we work with and conducted audits that ensure that these standards are complied with.

WireGuard® is a registered trademark of Jason A. Donenfeld.

Colocated servers

Started running our first servers that are fully owned, maintained, and managed by NordVPN.

RAM-based servers

Upgraded all regular servers to RAM-based, which store no data or configurations on site.

10Gbps servers

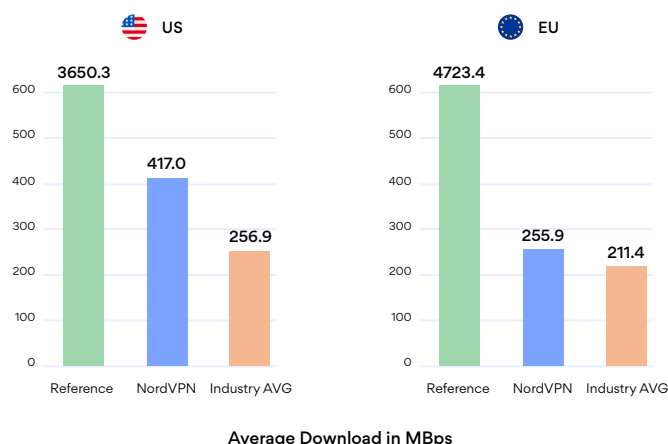
Added numerous 10Gbps servers, significantly improving the service speed and performance for our users.

The fastest VPN on the planet

We wanted to be sure that the upgrades significantly increased the service speed.

So, we sought the help of AV-TEST, an independent IT security institute. AV-TEST took the six biggest VPN brands and measured their performance against NordVPN based on two criteria — download and upload speeds.

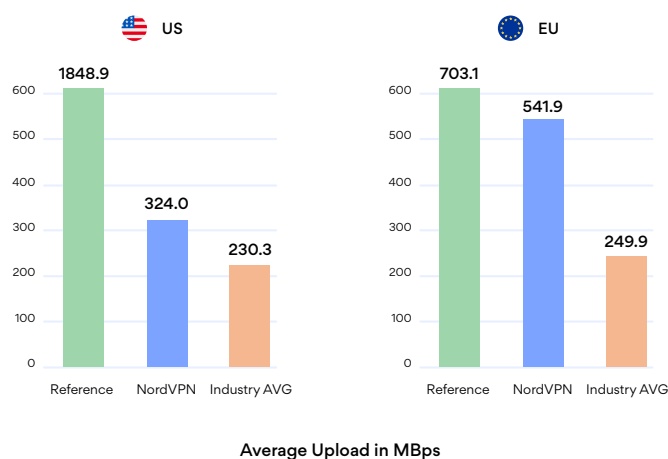
Three locations were chosen for the tests: the US, Europe, and Asia. In each region, NordVPN outperformed the other contestants in both download and upload speed, making it the fastest VPN on the market.



Dark web monitoring

We launched the Dark Web Monitor for the NordVPN iOS app, with plans to release it on Android this year.

Dark Web Monitor scans the dark web for credentials associated with a user’s email address. It runs continuously as long as it’s enabled — no additional action required.



If the Dark Web Monitor detects an exposed credential, it sends out an alert. The user immediately sees the leaked details, including the service breached. It’s an early-warning system, alerting our users to change their passwords before they lose the compromised account.

Presets

NordVPN has introduced the Presets feature on the NordVPN app for macOS, which combines custom VPN connection settings with shortcuts to apps or websites. This combo gives our users a secure, VPN-protected access to their favorite online services directly from the NordVPN app.

Users can set them up once, and they will stay in the sidebar for as long as they need them.

Some additional 32 initiatives were made live last year that improved our users’ VPN experience, ranging from Kill Switches and Whitelists on certain platforms to improving the battery usage for our macOS users while using the app.

NordPass

Auto Import

A key addition to NordPass, Auto Import enables the users to automatically import all their passwords from their browser without going through the tedious process of manual export and import. This year, we'll expand the functionality of the feature by supporting even more browsers.

Autofill

We markedly improved the Autofill feature by allowing users to automatically fill in their credit card details. We're planning to release the Autofill functionality for personal information in the nearest future.



Data Breach Scanner

Data Breach Scanner, a major new security feature, alerts our users if any of their personal data, including emails and passwords, has appeared in a data leak. It automatically scans the web for leaked databases and compares them to all the items stored in the user's vault.

Password Health

Besides functional improvements, we also equipped NordPass with additional security tools. The new Password Health feature is designed to help our users identify weak, reused, or compromised passwords in their NordPass vault.

Other improvements

- **Password Generator** creates new secure passwords and stores them in the vault.
- **Biometric Authentication** lets users replace the Master Password with their fingerprint.
- **OCR Scanner** scans and inputs user bank card details.
- **Personal information storage** allows users to save and autofill their phone numbers, email addresses, home, and work addresses with a few clicks.
- **Secure password sharing** enables users to send passwords to other users by placing them in their vault. Only those with authorized access can see and use these logins.

NordLocker 2.0

In May of 2020, we launched a new version of NordLocker with improved workflow, including search, drag-and-drop, change view, and home screen functions.

Encrypted cloud

A crucial upgrade to NordLocker, the encrypted cloud storage turned NordLocker from a file encryption app into a powerful file encryption tool with a private cloud. Now users can access their files from anywhere and back up their data automatically. The encrypted cloud storage synchronizes user data across multiple devices so it's always just a click away.

Successful bounty campaign

In April of 2020, we launched a bounty campaign. We invited ethical hackers and cybersecurity experts to crack an encrypted locker and win \$10,000. To this day, the locker hasn't been unlocked.

Latest UI improvements

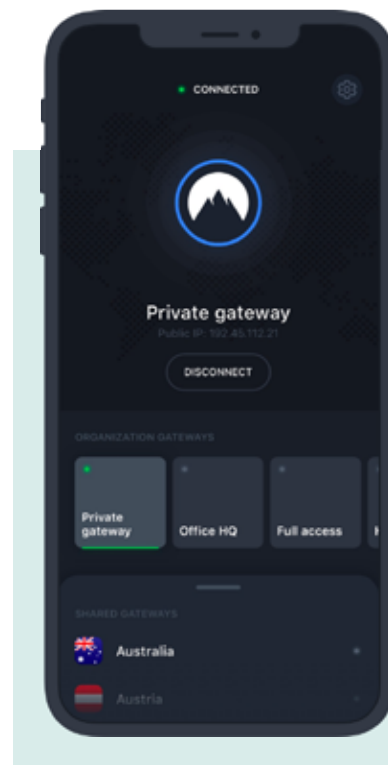
Additional columns, sorting, and a preferences window made NordLocker an even smoother, easier, and more intuitive security app. In addition, now users can choose the time period of inactivity after which the app automatically locks you out.

NordVPN Teams

In 2020, our VPN solution for businesses launched these updates and features:

- **Activity Monitoring.** Lets the admin see which gateways and devices the employees are using and audit all control panel actions.
- **NordVPN Teams Linux app.** Our VPN is now available to millions of businesses running devices on Linux-based operating systems.
- **Two-factor authentication.** Additional layer of security for our users.
- **ThreatBlock.** Automatically blocks harmful websites so that no malware or other cyber threats can infect your device.

This year was as incredibly fruitful in terms of new business partnerships, including, for example, [Aruba](#), a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company, and [keepod](#), which will further enhance user security.



Research department

In 2020, we launched the Nord Security research department. Thanks to its market research and customer surveys, we gained valuable insights into cybersecurity markets, online privacy, cloud security, password security, encryption, digital literacy, secure hosting, and corporate network security.



Notable studies

What people want to protect

Americans are concerned about the safety of their PDFs. 21% of Americans who search Google for ways to protect their files want to know how to secure their PDF files. The second most searched query (19%) is how to protect Word documents. Excel documents and Zip files took the third spot, with 9% each.

It is understandable: more than half of Americans (52%) share their personal computers with other people, such as their children, parents, or spouses. So, to keep their personal information private, they look for various file protection methods.

COVID-19 impact: stay home, work longer

During the first wave of the pandemic, employees in the US and UK were working 2.5 hours longer per day. This jump directly correlated with the mandated remote work. Employees in the US were reported to be working some additional 15 hours per week (an uplift of 40%).

Online working hours across most of Europe stabilized, with many employees having had the opportunity to return to the office in some capacity in summer. However, the UK and US were working until 20:00 and 21:00 in the evening respectively, regularly logging off later than usual to wrap up an extended working day.

Cyber Risk Index 2020

We analyzed data from 50 countries to develop a Cyber Risk Index, which predicted the risk of becoming a victim of cybercrime depending on the country of residence.

We found that factors like high-income economy, advanced technological infrastructure, urbanization, and digitalization lead to a higher level of cybercrime. That's why Northern Europe, which has the highest average monthly wage and more than 90% of internet penetration, is the most dangerous place in the world to be online. North America isn't far behind.

It sounds counterintuitive, since the UK ranks 1st and the US 2nd on the Global Cybersecurity Index, which is calculated based on legal, technical, organizational, and capacity building factors on a country level. But these factors have a limited impact on cyber risk when we get down to the individual level. Exposure to threats and income matter more.

200 most popular passwords

People usually use simple and easy-to-remember passwords because it's convenient. But the problem is that most memorable passwords are highly vulnerable to cracking. As has become our yearly tradition, we've analyzed the most popular passwords of 2020. Here are the top 5:

123456

used 2,543,285 times.

123456789

used 961,435 times.

picture1

used 371,612 times.

password

used 360,467 times.

12345678

used 322,187 times.

Password reset frequency

People usually look up how to reset their email passwords — this query makes up 40% of all reset searches. The second most searched reset (25%) was how to reset passwords on various operational systems. Password reset for Google accounts was the third most searched (16%), followed by generic searches (8%), such as “forgot password” or “change password”. Even less searched were social media providers (5%), entertainment (4%), various devices (1%), and productivity applications (1%).

1 in 5 don't care about cybersecurity

We surveyed the adult population (2,000 respondents) in the US and Germany and found out that 1 in 5 respondents don't care about cybersecurity.

Men tend to dominate the reckless part of society by a whopping share of 24%, while millennials and Generation Z are the least conscious when it comes to cybersecurity. Moreover, people who have children demonstrate a greater sense of responsible online behavior — 83% of parents said they are very concerned about cybersecurity.

Americans spend 95% of their waking hours stuck on their devices

We surveyed 1,000 Americans and found that, on average, they spend a staggering 95% of their waking hours on devices during the pandemic. That's 15 hours a day spent looking at various screens.

Your Facebook account is the most desired among hackers

We found 171,490 Google search queries per month related to hacking something or someone. Facebook made it to the top of the list with 46% of those searches. Most of these wannabe hackers' searches came from India (26%), the Philippines (19%), the US (13%), and France (9%). All these countries have extensive Facebook user bases, with India leading the list (290 million).

40% of search queries on Google related to the keyword “hack” were dedicated to hacking Wi-Fi. The majority of these searches on how to hack Wi-Fi came from India (23%), Indonesia (13%), the US (8%), and Mexico (8%).

YouTube holds the most desired restricted content.

82.7% of those searching for how to unblock online services were trying to access YouTube. The next most popular sites for unblock searches were Facebook (6.2%), Google (5.7%), Instagram (1.8%), and Reddit (1.5%).

The constraints placed upon the internet for residents of China become apparent from unblocking searches performed in the country. From mid-June to mid-July of this year, Chinese people tried to figure out how to unblock Google (40.4%), YouTube (31.6%), Facebook (8.8%), Instagram (8.8%), and Twitter (7.9%).

Growing impact

NordVPN has been growing fast and reached the point where we are looking into more region-specific solutions. We chose additional foreign markets as we see a growing interest in digital solutions, cybersecurity, and VPNs.

We are happy to see our Country Managers team expanding: France is taken care of by Cyril Polac; Germany — Joanna Rusin-Rohrig; Spain/Portugal — Daniel Postiga; UK — Gregory Tatton-Brown; Brazil — Jonas Schuler; Japan — Paul Ashton; South Korea — Sungwoo Cho; Hong Kong & Taiwan — Ugnė Mikalajūnaitė.

Notable articles from Nord Security blogs

Online privacy and security is something we're deeply passionate about. In our blogs, we cover many different cybersecurity topics, both for popular and tech-savvy audiences.

- [How artists use technology to erase Africa's online borders](#)
- [Ask an expert: Do you have what it takes to be an ethical hacker?](#)
- [How to work from home securely during a quarantine](#)
- [5G security: is there any reason to worry?](#)
- [How the world's first "cyberattack" looked 200 years ago](#)
- [Cybersecurity expert Troy Hunt explains the value of a VPN](#)
- [Password Habits in the US and the UK: This Is What We Found](#)
- [Are You Safe? Your Data Could Be Breached in One of 10,000 Exposed Databases Around the World](#)
- [10 highest-profile data breaches of 2020](#)
- [Cybersecurity principles that keep companies secure in the 21st century](#)

We were mentioned in

Throughout the year, Nord Security products received 7,886 media mentions worldwide, covering our opinions and expert tips. We were mentioned by such well-known outlets as The New York Times, Forbes, Bloomberg, and other major national newspapers and news websites.



Yes, People Are Still Using '123456'
And 'password' As Their Password

Forbes

How IT Executives Can Effectively
Lead Remote Teams

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Some VPN Providers Pull Hong Kong
Servers Over Security-Law Fears

Bloomberg

China's Great Firewall Looms Over
Hong Kong As Surveillance Grows

The New York Times

It's OK to Not Be a Perfect
Quarantine Employee

NEWYORKPOST

Hackers Are Exploiting the
Coronavirus Pandemic





Awards and nominations



NordVPN - Editor's
Choice PCMag



Best VPN
overall



Best VPN
overall



NordVPN -
Winner by Chip



German Chamber of
Commerce Golden Winner



NordPass - Easiest Set-Up
Password Manager;



NordPass - One of the
Best Password Managers

Thank you

We are going to keep on innovating in 2021. Nord Security will continue to support free speech and digital security around the world by providing cybersecurity tools to everyone who needs them. We wish you all a successful and secure year!

Follow our journey:



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