



## ATM Physical Attacks rise in Europe

**The European Association for Secure Transactions (EAST) has just published a European Payment Terminal Crime Report covering 2023 which highlights a rise in ATM related Physical Attacks.**

ATM related physical attacks were up 24% (from 3,728 to 4,637 incidents). Within this total, ATM Theft (*Rip-out*)/ATM Burglary (*In-situ*) attacks were up 5% (from 484 to 506 incidents) and Explosive Attacks were down 2% (from 727 to 714 incidents). Losses due to ATM related physical attacks were €9 million, an 18% decrease from the €11 million reported during 2022. 61% of these losses were due to Explosive Attacks, which were down 19% from €6.6 million to €5.36 million.

EAST Executive Director Lachlan Gunn said, *"This rise in ATM Physical Attacks is mainly driven by an increase in Non-Specific Attacks, primarily vandalism. Vandalism attacks are often evidence of criminal research and development for other attack types. It is good to see a slight drop in Explosive Attacks, although they remain of great concern to the industry. While extensive measures have already been taken to mitigate the risk of such attacks, each attack creates significant collateral damage to equipment and buildings and can pose a threat to life. Our EAST Expert Group on ATM and ATS Physical Attacks (EGAP), a public-private sector platform, is helping to share information and intelligence to counter this threat"*.

ATM malware and logical attacks were down 77% (from 31 to 7) and all the reported attacks were black box attacks. A black box attack is the connection of an unauthorised device which sends dispense commands directly to the ATM cash dispenser, to 'cash-out' or 'jackpot' the ATM. Most such attacks remain unsuccessful, and total losses of just €66,847 were reported.

Terminal related fraud attacks were down 30% (from 10,141 to 7,115 incidents). This decrease was primarily due to a fall in cash trapping at ATMs. These attacks decreased by 33% (from 7,166 to 4,795 incidents). Relay Attacks continued to occur with 63 cases reported during the year, down by 87% from the 502 such attacks reported in 2022. The successful attacks resulted in cash out at ATMs. Total losses of €173 million were reported, down 14% from the €200 million reported in 2022. Most losses remain international issuer losses due to card skimming, which were €146 million.

A summary of the report statistics under the main headings is in the table below. The full report, with breakdowns for each crime category, is available to EAST members.

EUROPEAN PAYMENT TERMINAL CRIME STATISTICS - SUMMARY						
ATM Malware & Logical Attacks	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% +/- 22/23
Total reported Incidents	140	202	52	31	7	-77%
Total reported losses	€1.09m	€1.24m	€0.70m	€0.14m	€0.07	-50%
Terminal Related Fraud Attacks	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% +/- 22/23
Total reported Incidents	18,217	6,523	5,969	10,141	7,115	-30%
Total reported losses	€249m	€218m	€198m	€200m	€173m	-14%
ATM Related Physical Attacks	2019	2020	2021	H1 2022	2023	% +/- 22/23
Total reported Incidents	4,571	3,722	3,947	3,728	4,637	+24%
Total reported losses	€22m	€22m	€10m	€11m	€9m	-18%

**ENDS**



Background data on the Report & EAST follow. For further information and a PDF copy of the report (Media only) please contact the EAST Executive Director Lachlan Gunn:

Email [coordinator@eas-team.eu](mailto:coordinator@eas-team.eu) Tel: + 44 131 5100268

For more information on EAST visit:

<https://www.association-secure-transactions.eu/>

<http://www.facebook.com/EASTatm>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-association-for-secure-transactions/>

## ***EUROPEAN PAYMENT TERMINAL CRIME REPORT - Period: January to December 2023***

The above release is based on a report prepared twice-yearly by EAST to provide an overview of the European payment terminal crime situation for law enforcement officers and EAST members. Statistics for this report were provided by 19 European states. The following countries, with an estimated total installed base of 294,582 ATMs, 285,022 UPTs, and 14,696,386 POS terminals, supplied full or partial information for this report:

*Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Romania; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom.*

EAST has taken reasonable measures to develop the report this press release is based on in a fair, reasonable, open, and objective manner. However, EAST makes no claims, promises, or guarantees about the completeness of the underlying data. In addition, as the information in the report has been passed to EAST by other parties, errors or mistakes may exist or be discovered. Neither EAST nor its members, authors, or agents shall be liable for any loss, damage, or claim with respect to any such information being provided. All such liabilities, including direct, special, indirect, or consequential damages, are expressly disclaimed and excluded.

## **ABOUT EAST**

Founded in February 2004 EAST is a 'non-profit' organisation whose National and Global Members are committed to gathering and collating information on both Terminal and Payment security within their countries/regions and sharing it with EAST Members and Law Enforcement Agencies.

EAST has set up a framework network structure to improve co-operation with industry, law enforcement, and in particular Europol, to achieve awareness and better results in the fight against organized cross-border crime. EAST National and Global Members represent 35 countries.

The EAST Expert Group on All Terminal Fraud (EGAF), formed in May 2013, provides a specialist expert forum for discussion of terminal related fraud trends, fraud methodologies and countermeasures. Through a system of Fraud Alerts EAST EGAF can communicate important and timely information to EAST National, Global, and Associate Members.

The EAST Expert Group on ATM and ATS Physical Attacks (EGAP), formed in May 2014, provides a specialist expert forum for discussion of related physical attack trends, attack methodologies and countermeasures. Through a system of Physical Attack Alerts EAST EGAP can communicate important and timely information to EAST National, Global, and Associate Members.

The EAST Expert on Payment and Transaction Fraud (EPTF), launched in January 2016, provides a European specialist forum for discussion of security issues affecting payments and transactions and for the gathering, collation and dissemination of related information, trends, and general statistics. Through a system of Payment Alerts EAST EPTF can communicate important and timely information to EAST National, Global, and Associate Members.