

Section 13

Challenges toward Ubiquitous Society

1 ICT usage from the viewpoint of safety and security

A recent major challenge in our society is to ensure security in using ICT. More and more individuals and companies are becoming victims of ID theft, phishing, false billing under a variety of normal circumstances in daily life or daily work (e.g. using an ATM or a credit card, online shopping).

Concerning information security crime, 54.7% of individuals had suffered some type of information security damage. The breakdown shows that the largest number of them (21.7% of the total respondents) “either discovered a virus or had been infected with one.” The second most common type was to “have received unsolicited emails”

(20.6%), followed by those who “have been infected with a virus at least once” (7.0%) (Figure 1-13-1).

As far as companies are concerned, 68.1% of them had suffered some damage. The breakdown shows that the most common damage was to have “been infected with a computer virus at least once” (29.4%). They were followed by those “used as a relay network or a stepping stone for spam mails” (3.7%), and “unauthorized access” (2.8%) (Figure 1-13-2).

“Act on the Protection of Personal Information” which has been fully enforced since April 2005, stipulates that security control measures be taken to prevent leakage of personal information when operators who handle personal information do their business.

Concerning the status of the implementation of measures

Figure 1-13-1 Experience of security-related damage, individuals (multiple answers)

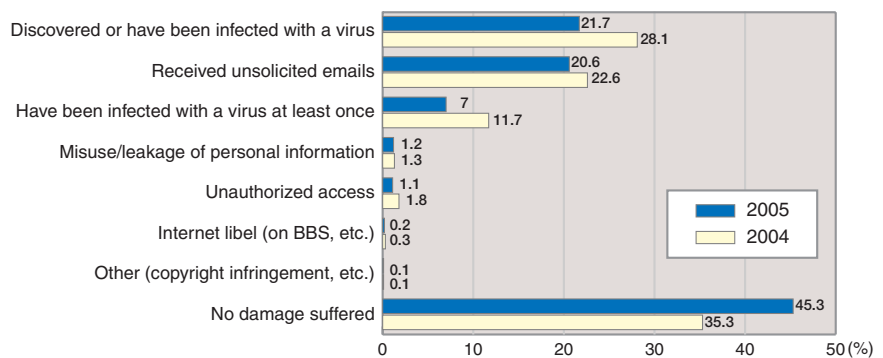
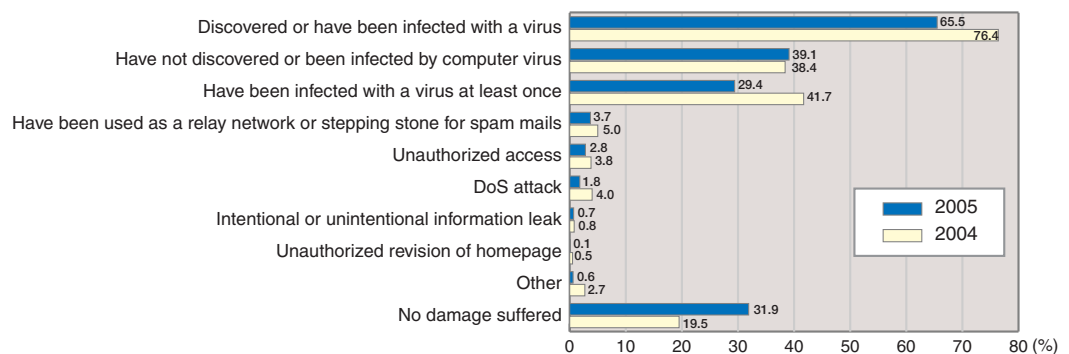


Figure 1-13-2 Experience of security-related damage, businesses (multiple answers)



(Source: “2005 Communications Usage Trend Survey (Business Edition),” MIC)

to protect personal information handled by businesses, an increasing number of companies say that they are taking some measure to protect personal information, compared to the last fiscal year.

2 Status of the digital divide

Regarding the use of the Internet depending on age, gender, and household income (as of the end of 2005), there is still a large gap between those 60 years and older and other generations although the gap has lessened compared to the end of 2004. Even between those in their 50s (75.3%) and those in their 60s (55.2%), the difference is approximately 20 points.

Furthermore, the use of broadband among those who access the Internet from their home PCs shows a significant gap according to age (as of the end of 2005): the percentage of broadband users from the late teens to the 40s was about 50%; whereas, the percentage fell to around 10% of those in their late 60s; the gap was about 40 points.