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EMIRATES PALACE HOTEL ABU DHABI | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAE SET FOR \$5BN TECH SPENDING

David George-Cosh

Jan 17, 2010, The National.ae

DUBAI // The UAE is forecast to spend almost US\$5 billion (Dh18.36bn) on technology this year, or about \$1,000 per capita, making it one of the world's fastest-growing regions for IT expenditure. The US-based global technology consultancy IDC said the world's leading emerging markets were set to lead the recovery in global technology spending in the coming years with the Middle East and Africa at the forefront of the surge.

"The UAE stands out as a key hub in the Middle Eastern and Africa region," said Jyoti Lalchandani, who is the vice president and regional managing director at IDC's Middle East office. In the Gulf, significant growth would take place in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE, Mr Lalchandani said. The Emirates leads all the Middle Eastern and African countries with \$983 in IT spending per capita. It is forecast to spend \$4.79bn on IT this year, an increase of 12.4 per cent on last year.

Companies in the Middle East and Africa are set to spend \$49.77bn this year, with the Gulf region expected to contribute about 25 per cent of the total, Mr Lalchandani said. "It will be the fastest growth region worldwide," he said. "The overall economic sentiment in the UAE and the region has greatly improved [on] one year ago." As a result of the global credit crisis, regional spending fell last year by about 5 per cent to \$44bn, Mr Lalchandani said. But with rising consumer sentiment and demand for new public-sector infrastructure projects emerging in the fourth quarter of last year, technology spending appears to be on the rebound.....

CYBER SECURITY SOLUTIONS MUST EVOLVE WITH BORDERLESS NETWORKS

Criminals exploit users' trust in consumer applications and devices

By Naushad K. Cherrayil, Staff Reporter, Gulf News, Published: 00:00 May 7, 2011

'Research shows that there is an increase in the incidence of cyber crime in the UAE. According to Dubai Police, around 70 per cent of criminal offences perpetrated in the UAE have their origin in the cyber space.'

'In Saudi Arabia, research conducted by the Excellence Centre for Information Security shows 22.6 per cent of organisations have suffered hacking targeted at their IT infrastructure.'

SAUDI ARABIA

'Another report, this one by Prince Miqren Information Security Research Chair in King Saudi University, places Saudi Arabia at No 10 in electronic attacks worldwide. The number of web users in Saudi Arabia has now touched 11.2 million.'



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CYBER CRIMINALS TARGETING THE UAE SAY OFFICIALS

Bradley Hope, Farah Halime and David George-Cosh

Feb 9, 2011, www.thenational.ae

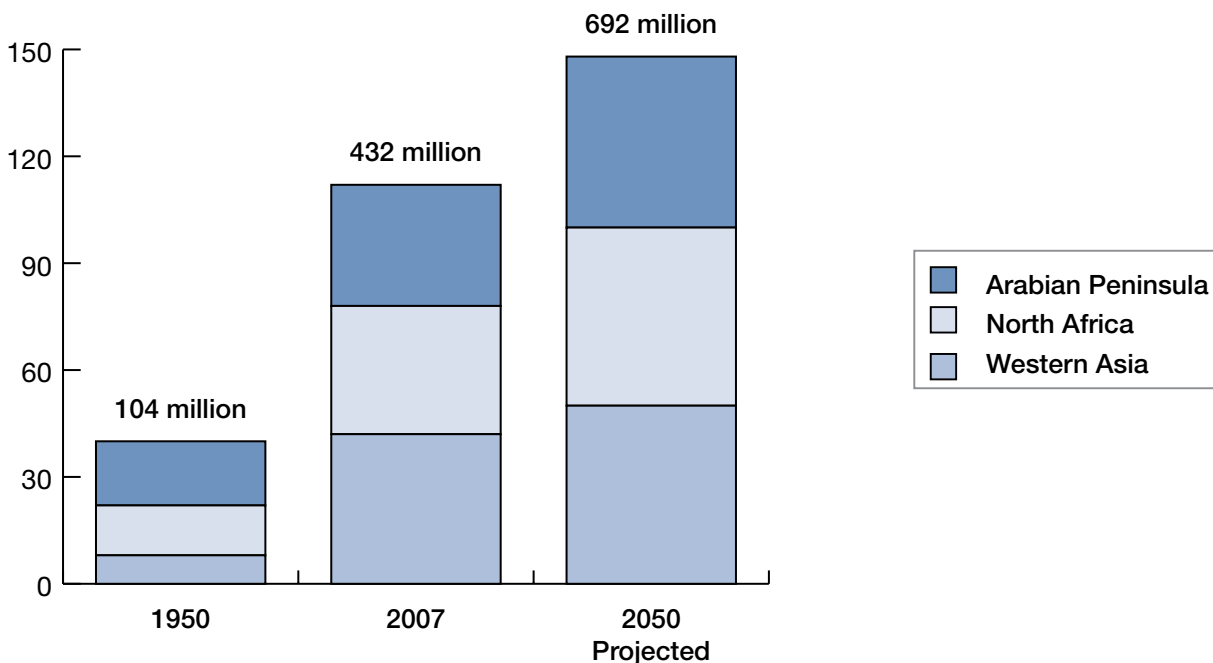
'The nation's critical financial infrastructure is under constant attack by cyber criminals using increasingly sophisticated techniques to try to disrupt business or steal inside information to sell for cash, top executives say.

Representatives from the country's three stock exchanges said they had not been breached by hackers, but were aware of the growing threat from hackers especially after the unauthorised access of into a system owned by Nasdaq OMX Group in the United States. The group owns the Nasdaq Stock Exchange in New York and a third of the Nasdaq Dubai.....'

KEY DRIVERS OF GROWTH

Demographic and economic factors are driving these growth figures. The MENA population is young and growing rapidly. Diversification of oil wealth into other industries has ensured investment into connectivity has been a priority for governments.

POPULATION GROWTH IN THE MENA REGIONS:



Source: UN, 2007.



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INTERNET PENETRATION

The Middle East has a penetration rate of 28.3%, against a global average of 25.5%. There were an estimated 57 million internet users in the region in 2009. The value for Security providers lies in the hyper growth rates in connectivity, with a 1,648% increase over the previous decade (against 368% for the Rest of the World). As accessing the internet becomes increasingly a part of daily life, governments and service providers are investing to deliver their products and communications through these channels.

However, security practices have not kept pace with these developments. In the UAE researchers from the American University of Sharjah found only 49% of wireless networks were WEP enabled. ("UAE lacks in wireless security awareness", ArabianBusiness.com, 01 July 2007

MOBILE PENETRATION

The UAE's Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA) reported mobile subscribers in the country passed 10 million subscribers this year. The number, which doubled in the last four years, represents an unprecedented mobile penetration rate of over 200%. As a result, UAE is now one of the highest penetration markets in the world.

GOVERNMENT FOCUS

The UAE Government is committed to offering services through online solutions, including processing of confidential and critical information. Financial institutions are also focused on delivery of online and mobile services, taking advantage of one of the world's highest penetration rates for mobile devices.

The TRA's strategic support of Black Hat Abu Dhabi is testament to the focus of the UAE government in this area. aeCERT, the TRA initiative charged with managing threats in this area, has as it's mission an aim to

"sustain a resilient and vigilant ICT infrastructure against a broader set of cyber security threats [and to] build a secure and safe cyber culture in the United Arab Emirates."

KEY FIGURES (MENA REGION)

IT Spending 2010: \$63 Billion
IT Spending Growth 2010: 12%
Regional Spend as Percentage of Total ICT Spend: 17%
IT Security Spending 2010: \$271 Million
Population 2007: 432 Million
Population Projection 2050: 692 Million
Population Growth Projection: 160%
Internet Penetration: 28.3%
Internet Penetration Growth Last Decade: 1,648%



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MIDDLE EAST INTERNET USAGE & POPULATION STATISTICS						
MIDDLE EAST	Population (2009 Est.)	Usage, in Dec/ 2000	Internet Usage, Latest Data	% Population (Penetration)	User Growth (2000 - 2009)	(%) of Table
BAHRAIN	1,214,705	40,000	649,300	53.5 %	1,523.3 %	0.9 %
IRAN	77,891,220	250,000	33,200,000	42.6 %	13,180.0 %	48.4 %
IRAQ	30,399,572	12,500	325,000	1.1 %	2,500.0 %	0.5 %
ISRAEL	7,473,052	1,270,000	5,263,146	70.4 %	314.4 %	7.7 %
JORDAN	6,508,271	127,300	1,741,900	26.8 %	1,268.3 %	2.5 %
KUWAIT	2,595,628	150,000	1,100,000	42.4 %	633.3 %	1.6 %
LEBANON	4,143,101	300,000	1,093,420	26.4 %	264.5 %	1.6 %
OMAN	3,027,959	90,000	1,465,000	48.4 %	1,527.8 %	2.1 %
PALESTINE (WEST BK.)	2,568,555	35,000	1,379,000	53.7 %	3,840.0 %	2.0 %
QATAR	848,016	30,000	563,800	66.5 %	1,779.3 %	0.8 %
SAUDI ARABIA	26,131,703	200,000	11,400,000	43.6 %	5,600.0 %	16.6 %
SYRIA	22,517,750	30,000	4,469,000	19.8 %	14,796.7 %	6.5 %
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	5,148,664	735,000	3,555,100	69.0 %	383.7 %	5.2 %
YEMEN	24,133,492	15,000	2,349,000	9.7 %	15,560.0 %	3.4 %
GAZA STRIP	1,657,155	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL MIDDLE EAST	216,258,843	3,284,800	68,553,666	31.7 %	1,987.0 %	100.0 %

NOTES: (1) The Middle East Statistics were updated as of March 31, 2011. (2) CLICK on each country name to see detailed data for individual countries and regions. (3) The demographic (population) numbers are based on data from the US Census Bureau. (4) Internet usage numbers come from various sources and are compiled here, see the site surfing guide. (5) The most recent usage information comes mainly from the data published by Nielsen Online, ITU, and other reliable sources. (6) For growth comparison purposes, the usage data published by ITU for the year 2.000 is furnished. (7) Data may be cited, giving due credit and establishing an active link back to InternetWorld Stats. Copyright © 2011, Miniwatts Marketing Group. All rights reserved.

INTERNET USERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST & IN THE WORLD						
MIDDLE EAST REGION	Population (2011 Est.)	Population % of World	Internet Users, Latest Data	% Population (Penetration)	User Growth (2000 - 2011)	Users % of World
TOTAL IN MIDDLE EAST	216,258,843	3.1 %	68,553,666	31.7 %	1,987.0 %	3.3 %
REST OF THE WORLD	6,713,796,311	96.9 %	2,026,452,339	30.2 %	466.5 %	96.7 %
WORLD TOTAL	6,930,055,154	100.0 %	2,095,006,005	30.2 %	480.4 %	100.0 %

NOTES: (1) Internet Usage and Population Statistics for the Middle East were updated as of March 31, 2011. (2) Population numbers are based on data contained in the US Census Bureau (3) The most recent Internet stats come mainly from data published by Nielsen Online , ITU , Computer Industry Almanac and other trustworthy sources. (4) Data on this site may be cited, giving due credit and establishing an active link back to InternetWorldStats.com . Copyright © 2011, Miniwatts Marketing Group. All rights reserved.



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IT SECURITY SOLUTIONS LIKELY TO ATTRACT MORE INVESTMENT

By Naushad K. Cherrayil, Staff Reporter. Published July 10, 2010, gulfnews.com

AROUND 70 PER CENT OF THE OVERALL IT SECURITY SPENDING WILL BE DRIVEN BY THE TELECOMMUNICATION, GOVERNMENT AND FINANCE SECTORS AND THIS HAS BEEN THE CASE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS AS SECURITY REMAINS AMONG THE TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR IT MANAGERS, SAYS RANJIT RAJAN, SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYST, IDC MEA

Dubai: Investment in IT security solutions in the Gulf states is expected to continue to increase over the next couple of years as the quality of IT infrastructure continues to improve in the region.

Increased internet penetration necessitates securing more access points, thereby requiring more spending on IT security solutions. In addition, with the increased usage of converged mobile devices or smartphones, a substantial portion of internet access happens on mobile devices, and this, in turn, requires further investment in security, Ranjit Rajan, Senior research analysts, IDC MEA, told Gulf News.

Spending on IT security software and appliances (excluding services) in the Gulf states is forecast to reach \$350 million in 2010, an increase of around 13 per cent compared to \$310 million in 2009.

Around two per cent of IT spending, which is expected to touch \$15 billion this year, is expected to be spent on security software and appliances (excluding services). Saudi Arabia remains the largest market in the region, followed by the UAE. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are estimated to contribute about 75 per cent of IT security while other Gulf states will contribute the remainder.

Rajan said about 70 per cent of IT security spending will be driven by the telecommunications, government and finance sectors and this has been the case over the last two years as security remains among the top spending priorities for IT managers.

IT security is expected to remain a concern for business in the region for many years. The ever-increasing volume of malware coupled with the necessity of modern enterprises to maintain round-the-clock business availability will drive spending. As regional companies make strides in the global marketplace, they often see that a robust IT security system is a must-have for them to be able to compete globally.

Controlling cybercrime is a challenging task, Rajan said, and requires constant monitoring of networks by authorities and stringent implementation of legislation. Companies, on the other hand, must have the robust security policies in place that are easily understood and adhered to by employees, risk assessment tools that allow them to be more proactive, and above all, processes that ensure all security systems are up to date with the latest signatures.

As internet penetration continues to rise and mobile technologies continue to spread, exposure to data and identity theft will remain a main concern.

Companies are going to have to focus on mobile security solutions and work on having properly defined mobile security policies. An increased mobile workforce produces a large volume of data on the move, IT departments need to secure laptops and smart phones to prevent the loss of this data through theft or accidents, he said.

Countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE are implementing national identity initiatives, through which they will issue smart cards carrying citizens' biometric data and other crucial information.

He said ID cards maybe helpful in identifying people engaging in cybercriminal activities as most of the information can be tracked centrally. However, the chances of identity theft can increase if proper steps are not taken to secure the card's information.