


# Malware shakes up the payment card market


NordStellar researchers reviewed data relating to 600,000 payment card details stolen by malware and put up for sale on the dark web.


The study showed that malware is becoming a more common tool for payment card theft, often stealing more than just the victim's card details.





## Key findings


 The research showed that **99% of stolen cards included info** like the victim's name, computer files, and saved credentials.

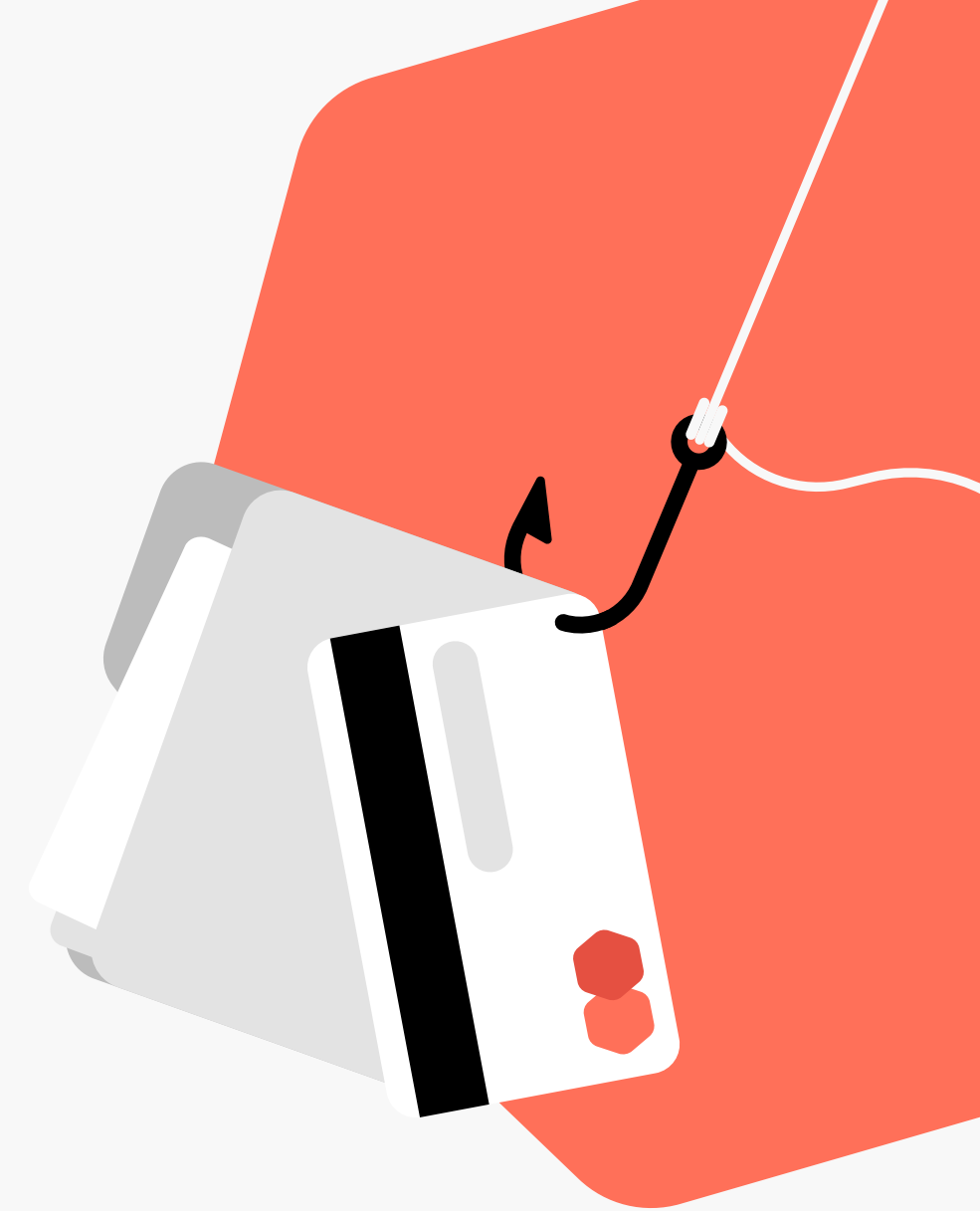
 Cybercriminals use **malware as a service** (a subscription tool) to steal card details. These tools cost as little as **\$150 per month** and offer support for newbies.

 **Redline malware** is a cybercriminal's top choice — six out of 10 (60%) payment cards were stolen using this sophisticated stealer. Redline is affordable, effective, and beginner friendly, so it's not surprising that many cybercriminals make it their top choice.

 Over half (**54%**) of the 600,000 were Visa cards, and a third (**33%**) were Mastercard cards.

 Stolen data is **sold and used quickly** — often in a matter of hours. Cybercriminals use dedicated Telegram channels and web marketplaces to sell the data to fraudsters.

 Most of the stolen card details came from American users, showing payment card theft is rife in the U.S. Other severely affected countries were Brazil, India, Mexico, and Argentina.



## How to build a strong defense against malware



Learn to spot phishing



Use strong passwords



Secure accounts with MFA



Avoid shady downloads



Use dark web-monitoring tools



Use NordVPN's Threat Protection