



QNA EDGE

TECH • CYBERSECURITY • AI

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the very first edition of **QNA Edge**, your trusted source for insights at the intersection of technology, cybersecurity, and AI. In an era where digital trust defines business, governance, and national security, QNA Edge is here to lead the conversation — boldly, intelligently and unapologetically future-facing.

Each edition will bring you verified intelligence, exclusive research and perspectives that matter — empowering you to anticipate risks, harness innovation and stay ahead of the curve in a region that's not just catching up but setting the pace.

But this isn't a one-way broadcast. **QNA Edge** will evolve with you. Future editions will reflect the questions you ask, the issues you care about, and the technologies transforming your world. From AI regulation to quantum threats, digital identity to smart cities — this platform is built to explore, challenge, and elevate the regional tech narrative.

We're just getting started — and your voice will shape where we go next.

Welcome to the edge.

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

Cyber Pulse

- **Credential Theft Surges 160%**
Stolen usernames and passwords now account for 1 in 5 data breaches globally.
- **Ransomware Payouts Hit Record Levels**
Average ransom payments have doubled in a single quarter, surpassing **\$1 million per incident**.
- **Cybersecurity Spending Tops \$213 Billion**
Global security budgets are expected to reach \$213 billion in 2025, driven by AI-powered threats, stricter compliance requirements and the rapid expansion of cloud and IoT environments.
- **AI-Powered Phishing on the Rise**
Over **70% of phishing** emails detected this year were AI-generated, making them harder to distinguish from legitimate communication and faster to deploy at scale.
- **Synthetic Threats Emerge**
Deepfakes, synthetic identities, and AI-generated fraud schemes are accelerating. Experts warn that organizations must build **synthetic resilience** through behavioural biometrics, explainable AI and real-time anomaly detection.
- **Extended Attack Surface = Bigger Risk**
With more organizations relying on **cloud, SaaS and remote-first work models**, attackers are exploiting misconfigured APIs, unpatched workloads and exposed endpoints more than ever before.

COMING SOON



Organised by QNA, Hosted by the Cyber Security Council in strategic partnership with the Dubai Electronic Security Center, the **Cyber AI Summit & Awards** is the Middle East's first cybersecurity conference dedicated exclusively to the transformative power of AI in the fight against AI-driven cyber threats.

9th September, 2025 | Address Sky View Dubai, UAE



SPOTLIGHT ON AI30: SHAPING THE REGION'S AI FUTURE

Recognises 30 qualified and high-impact AI startup organisations at the heart of this global shift. It is the first-of-its-kind showcase in the MENA region with a sharp focus on the convergence of AI and cybersecurity and strategic exposure to high-stakes government and enterprise decision-makers.

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**PAYMENT SECURITY
SUMMIT - EGYPT**
EMPOWERING SECURE TRANSACTIONS
IN THE DIGITAL AGE

23rd September 2025 | The Westin Cairo Golf Resort & Spa, Katameya Dunes

Following the remarkable success of previous editions in India, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia, QNA is proud to announce the Payment Security Summit, Egypt 2025 (#PSSEgypt) — an essential gathering for leaders shaping the future of secure digital transactions. In collaboration with the **Payment Security Standards Council, ISACA Cairo, the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA) and the Egyptian Fintech Association**, this prestigious summit will bring together 150+ senior decision-makers and experts from across cybersecurity, IT, risk and compliance functions to discuss and debate the future of a digital payment ecosystem.

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**PAYMENT SECURITY
SUMMIT - KSA**
EMPOWERING SECURE TRANSACTIONS
IN THE DIGITAL AGE

12th November 2025 | Riyadh Marriot Hotel

As Saudi Arabia advances toward a digitally driven, cashless economy, the imperative to protect its financial infrastructure becomes paramount. This underscores the significance of the Payment Security Summit—a high-impact summit series organised by QNA—as it arrives in the Kingdom to spotlight its evolving landscape of secure digital transactions.

In strategic collaboration with the **PCI Security Standards Council**, this landmark summit will take place in Riyadh following successful editions in India, the UAE, South Africa, and Egypt bringing together over 150 senior decision-makers and industry experts from across the cybersecurity, IT, risk and compliance landscapes.

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QNA Edge is more than a newsletter—it's a movement to set the agenda in technology and security. We invite partnerships across industry, policy and innovation. Whether through event collaboration, thought leadership or strategic alliances, QNA welcomes you to help build a resilient, Alsecure future.

Let's connect—Do you wish to position yourself as a thought leader in the dynamic field of technology or partner with us for our events? Find out how.

Reach out to us at info@qna-events.com