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Cyber Crime and Human Trafficking in Shipping Industry

Today, around 90% of world trade is carried by the international shipping industry and the biggest and fastest growing method used is container shipping. Containers carry all sorts of cargo, but very often also the forbidden one, such as drugs, weapons, or even human beings and can be moved seamlessly between ships, trucks, trains and aeroplanes. But although some 400 million containers are shipped annually, only around 2% of them are being inspected.

Unawareness of cyber security issues has put the entire shipping industry under a great risk, allowing cyber criminals to target transport operators, ports and terminals in order to access data on high-value cargo and susceptible loads. Real cases have proven that the simple software and hardware hacks can allow traffickers to infiltrate the port and steal particular containers from terminals-before the legitimate owner arrives. This scenario only perpetuates the real threat of human trafficking being undertaken by means of cyber crime in modern shipping and port industry.