The image features a large, golden trophy of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in the foreground. The trophy has a globe at the top with a map of Africa, surrounded by soccer balls. The base is blue and white with the text "COUPE D'AFRIQUE DES NATIONS". In the background, a soccer match is taking place on a green field with players in red and blue kits. The entire scene is overlaid with a dark green semi-transparent filter.

INTERPOL and Kaspersky teaming up to defend the competition

The Africa Cup of Nations
(AFCON)

1957

Founded in 1957 to crown the national champions of the African continent

24

National teams partook in the 2025 final tournament

1.2 million

Total turnout with over 3.4 billion views

\$10 million

Prize at stake

The Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON)

The **Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON)** is the premier international men's association football competition in Africa, sanctioned by the Confederation of African Football (CAF). The competition has traditionally been held every 2 years. The 2025 tournament took place in Morocco from December 2025 to January 2026.

As with any high-profile international sporting event, AFCON 2025 was bound to attract the special interest of the cybercriminal community.



Cybercrime activity peaks before and during major sporting contests



Threat actors deliberately target fans



Spectators need to stay vigilant



International law enforcement agencies play a key role



Yuliya Shlychkova

VP of Global Public Affairs,
Kaspersky



In such scenarios, fostering collaboration between public and private entities is crucial to channel all efforts into combating cybercrime and creating a secure experience for the millions attending these global events. Kaspersky is proud to contribute to INTERPOL's mission, which unites industry stakeholders in a shared commitment to global cybersecurity.

Sharing intelligence

To help create a safer online community around the AFCON, Kaspersky shared with INTERPOL the data on a wide range of threats targeting the contest, its participants and viewers, and the host country in general.



Active Threats Uncovered

Compromised credentials

Monitoring external threats to business assets across the surface, deep and dark web

- Continuous monitoring with real-time threat alerts
- Early detection of mentions of the company's assets
- Auto-expanding observable perimeter
- Criticality meter to assess and prioritize threats

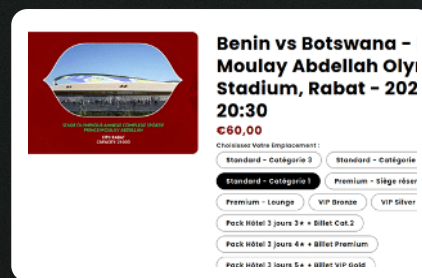
The Kaspersky Digital Footprint Intelligence team identified on the dark web **more than 2 million credentials** associated with Moroccan users or resources. Corresponding accounts were compromised by infostealer, a malware designed to extract credentials, financial details or other valuable information.

Hacktivist activity

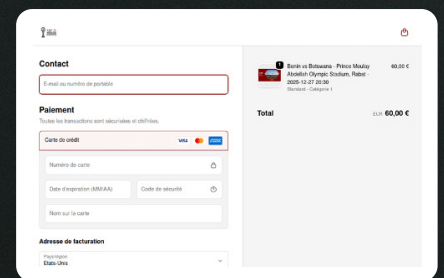
Kaspersky detected a spike in hacktivist activity in Morocco between September and December 2025. **About 300 messages**, reporting on hacktivist attacks targeting Morocco, were published in 2025, with DDoS attacks and defacement remaining the key hacktivist tools.

Scam websites

Kaspersky identified a number of **fraudulent websites harvesting user data and payment information** under the guise of offering tickets to AFCON or promising prizes for picking the winning team in upcoming matches.



An example of a scam website offering fraudulent AFCON tickets



An example of a payment form on a scam website

Protecting major sporting events worldwide

INTERPOL-led efforts play a vital role in **bringing together and coordinating stakeholders** whose involvement is crucial for ensuring the security of major high-profile events. Kaspersky has maintained a positive momentum of joint cooperation projects with INTERPOL, and has also joined INTERPOL-led cybersecurity efforts around major tournaments like the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the 2025 Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix.



Kaspersky Digital Footprint Intelligence

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