

Of the 32 teams in Qatar, who has the best defence - in terms of cybersecurity?

A recent survey by Cygienic.com, an online cybersecurity risk management platform based in Singapore and the UK, examined the cybersecurity ratings of each of the football teams competing in Qatar at the 2022 World Cup.

Comparing various elements, including Webpage Security, Email Security, Data Privacy and Vulnerabilities. After finding some surprising results, and with tongue-firmly-in-cheek, Cygienic goes onto predict the winner of this year's world cup...

Singapore, November 27, 2022

At the World Cup in Qatar, a strong defence is a must for any team looking to advance beyond the group stages, never mind going on to win the tournament.

Yet, when it comes to cybersecurity hygiene, taking the right steps to ensure that you're not vulnerable from cyberattacks, data breaches, etc., some teams are leaving themselves wide open.

In a recent Cygienic survey of the 32 nations football associations competing in Qatar, more than half failed to meet many of the standard **cybersecurity** configurations. Our cyber scans found that many of the FA websites failed to meet basic security, leaving their websites vulnerable and open to cyberattacks.*

In fact, more than half had one or more known exploitable security vulnerability, leaving the website exposed to a potential data breach. On average, 75% of our cybersecurity controls were met, but many failed and surprisingly were way below expectations.

In terms of **data privacy**, if the site is not using the latest data encryption standards, fan data exchanged with that website maybe at risk. Our assessments found that one third of the websites were not up the date, yet the likes of **Switzerland, Portugal, and Canada** stood out with strong data privacy controls.

"If fans are coming to your site," says Cygienic, "it's only right that you ensure that there are proper safeguards in place to protect their data, as well as your own."

When it comes to email security, where basic configurations were checked against industry standards, **England** and **Wales** were among those at the top security ratings

"You might think 'it's just an email', advises Cygienic. "However, **90% of cyberattacks start with an email, so you're email defense line up is critical.**

So, what does this all mean?

Basic cybersecurity hygiene is not only essential when you build a website or an application, but equally when you maintain it. It's akin to good personal hygiene, in the same way that bathing regularly helps to preserve good health and well-being.

Without good cyber hygiene practice, online businesses, including football federations, are vulnerable to a cyberattack, data breaches, ransomware, damaged reputations, and worse.

But will it help predict the winners?

In 2010, there was Paul, an octopus. In 2014, Shaheen, a camel. And in 2018, there was Cleopatra, a tapir. So will 2022 see Cykick, an Excel spreadsheet, predict the World Cup Winners?

Who knows, but no harm in having a go.

So how do the 32 teams in Qatar compare when it comes to good cyber hygiene?

Annex A shows each team's cybersecurity rating associated with Email Security, Website Security, IP Reputation, Vulnerability, and Data Privacy.

In Annex B, we picked the winners based on their overall cybersecurity rating.

How costly is a poor cybersecurity rating?

While the results are firmly tongue-in-cheek, at Cygienic we take cyber hygiene and cybersecurity very seriously. After all, poor cyber hygiene impacts on a company's cybersecurity rating. Yet, these ratings are also essential for:

- Managing and evaluating third-party risk
- Choosing future suppliers and investors
- Providing key stakeholders with a more measurable ROI

Going forward, Gartner say that cybersecurity ratings will become as important as credit ratings in risk assessment for new business relationships. To the point that such ratings will become the standard and due-diligence level for both buyers and suppliers.

“In football, you can never underestimate the opposition. It's the same with cyber security”, says Cygienic. **“By knowing your cyber score, you can find ways to improve it and stop attackers in their tracks.”**

*Note to editors:

The Cykick 2022 World Cup Predictor was conducted in November 2022 using Cygienic's proprietary online tools and measured against industry standards.

About Cygienic's Cykick 2022 World Cup Predictor

Leveraging a trusted security rating platform, **Cygienic** examined online assets, such as email addresses, web applications, and IP addresses, for each of the 32 football federations competing in Qatar.

Our online tools and probes examined more than 50 cyber hygiene data checkpoints, including:

- Anti-spoofing email security features
- Well-known network or system vulnerabilities
- Domain and IP reputation research for malware and botnets
- Data privacy security issues
- Domain and website security settings

By regularly scanning for all of these issues, **Cygienic** can help organisations to reach their cybersecurity and business goals, by adapting their IT security practices and being better prepared to repel data breaches, ransomware, and other cyberattacks.

To learn more, visit www.Cygienic.com today.

About Cygienic

A Singapore-registered private limited company, **Cygienic** helps to minimize the damage that a potential data breach or cyberattack can do to any organization, reputationally and financially.

From cyber hygiene ratings and risk management to awareness and training, our online tools and guidance offer you peace of mind. Day in, day out.

In short, we can help to take the guesswork out of cybersecurity.

Contact

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Annex A

Cygenic Cybersecurity Rating's for the 2022 World Cup Football Associations

Team	Domain Name	Average Score	Domain Grade
Argentina	afa.com.ar	76	B
Australia	footballaustralia.com.au	85	A
Belgium	rbfa.be	74	B
Brazil	cob.org.br	80	B+
Cameroon	fecafoot-officiel.com	66	C+
Canada	canadasoccer.com	72	B
Costa Rica	fedefutbol.com	69	C+
Croatia	hns-cff.hr	63	C+
Denmark	dbu.dk	73	B
Ecuador	fef.ec	80	B+
England	thefa.com	87	A
France	uk.fff.fr	68	C+
Germany	dfb.de	82	B+
Ghana	ghanafa.org	74	B
Iran	ffiri.ir	64	C+
Japab	jfa.jp	69	C+
Mexico	fmf.mx	80	B+
Moroccoa	site.frmf.ma	71	B
Netherland	knvb.com	78	B+
Poland	pzpn.pl	73	B
Portuagal	fpf.pt	84	B+
Qatar	qfa.qa	72	B
Saudi Arabia	saff.com.sa	68	C+
Senegal	fsfoot.sn	69	C+
Serbia	fss.rs	67	C+
South Korea	kfa.or.kr	67	C+
Spain	rfef.es	73	B
Switzerland	football.ch	83	B+
Tunisia	ftf.org.tn	83	B+
Uruguay	auf.org.uy	77	B+
USA	ussoccer.com	78	B+
Wales	faw.cymru	75	B

Annex B

Cykick 2022 World Cup Predictor by Cygienic

Please note that our predictions are based on **Cygienic's Cybersecurity Ratings for the Football Associations of the Teams at the 2022 World.**

While firmly tongue-in-cheek, they are based on more than 50 cyber hygiene data checkpoints, including:

- Anti-spoofing email security features
- Well-known network or system vulnerabilities
- Domain and IP reputation research for malware and botnets
- Data privacy security issues
- Domain and website security settings

Based on the cybersecurity ratings, those with the highest score were chosen as the winners and runners-up in each group. The same format was used in the knockout stages.

While the predicted results are just for fun, at Cygienic we take cyber hygiene and cybersecurity very seriously. After all, poor cyber hygiene impacts on a company's cybersecurity rating, which can be essential for:

- Managing and evaluating third-party risk
- Choosing future suppliers and investors
- Providing key stakeholders with a more measurable ROI

As we like to say, "In football, you can never underestimate the opposition. It's the same with cyber security. By knowing your cyber score, you can find ways to improve it and stop attackers in their tracks."

For more information and to learn how Cygienic can help enhance your cybersecurity rating, visit www.cygienic.com today

Group Stages

Group A: Ecuador, Netherlands, Senegal, Qatar

Winner: Ecuador, Runner-Up: Netherlands

Group B: England, Iran, USA and Wales

Winner: England, Runner-Up: Wales

Group C: Argentina, Mexico, Poland and Saudi Arabia

Winner: Mexico, Runner-Up: Argentina

Group D: Australia, Denmark, France and Tunisia

Winner: Australia, Runner-Up: Denmark

Group E: Costa Rica, Germany, Japan and Spain

Winner: Germany, Runner-Up: Spain

Group F: Belgium, Canada, Croatia and Morocco

Winner: Belgium, Runner-Up: Canada

Group G: Brazil, Cameroon, Serbia and Switzerland

Winner: Switzerland, Runner-Up: Brazil

Group H: Ghana, Portugal, South Korea and Uruguay

Winner: Uruguay Runner-Up: Ghana

Round of 16

Winners Group A vs Runners-up Group B

Ecuador v Wales = Ecuador

Winners Group C vs Runners-up Group D

Mexico v Denmark = Mexico

Winners Group D vs Runners-up Group C

Australia v Argentina = Australia

Winners Group B vs Runners-up Group A

England v Holland = England

Winners Group E vs Runners-up Group F

Germany v Canada = Germany

Winners Group G vs Runners-up Group H

Switzerland v Ghana = Switzerland

Winners Group F vs Runners-up Group E

Belgium v Spain = Belgium

Winners Group H vs Runners-up Group G

Uruguay v Brazil = Brazil

Quarter-finals

Winners Match 53 vs Winners Match 54

Germany v Switzerland = Switzerland

Winners Match 49 vs Winners Match 50

Ecuador v Mexico = Ecuador

Winners Match 55 vs Winners Match 56

Belgium v Brazil = Brazil

Winners Match 51 vs Winners Match 52

England v Australia = England

Semi-finals

Winners Match 57 vs Winners Match 58

Switzerland v Ecuador = Switzerland

Winners Match 59 vs Winners Match 60

Brazil v England = England

Third place play-off

Ecuador v Brazil = Brazil

Final:

Switzerland v England = England