

# Dissecting Cybersecurity Breaches

Jeremiah School – Impact Networking / DOT Security

# Introduction



 **impact**



# Agenda

- **Understanding a Breach**
- **Insights Into Breach Response**
- **Real World Stories**
- **Best Ways to Reduce Breach Risk**
- **Q&A**

# Incident

**An event that could jeopardize the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of digital information or information systems.**

# Breach

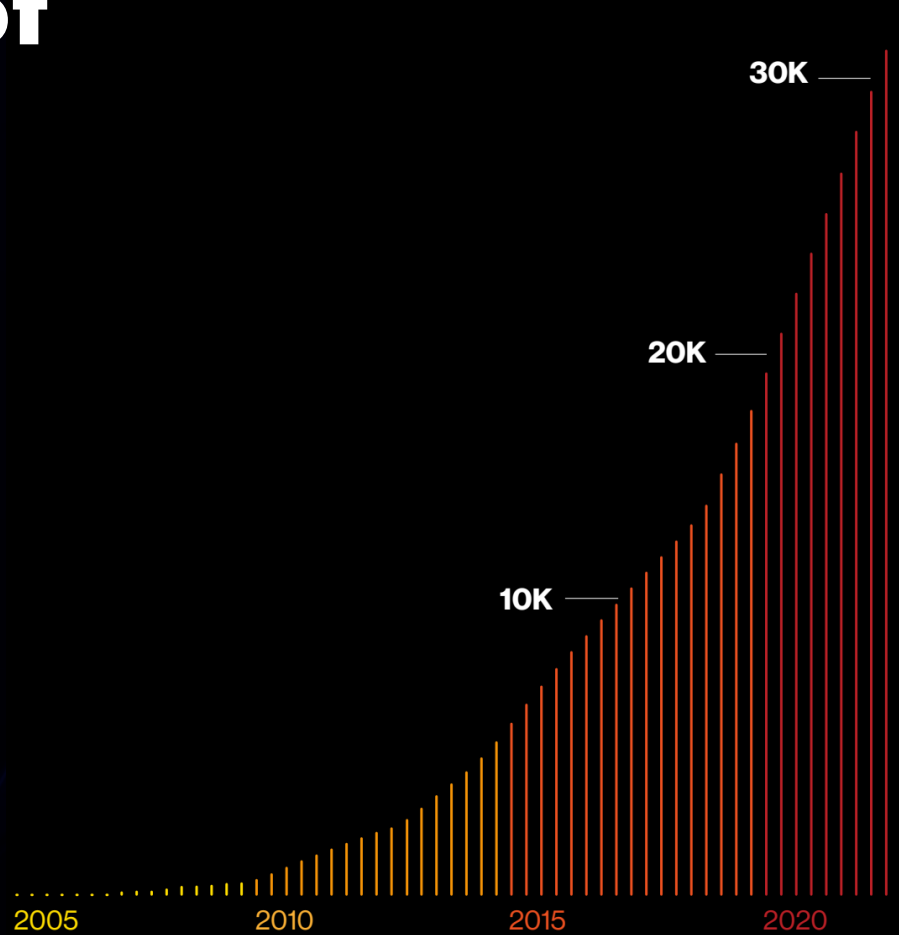
**A cybersecurity breach is any unauthorized access to data, applications, devices, or networks. Typically, they're done with the intent to steal data or shut down key systems.**

# Understanding Breaches

# Incident Severity

<b>LEVEL 5</b> <i>Emergency</i>	<b>EMERGENCY SITUATION: ACTIVE CYBERATTACK</b> e.g. Evidence of an attacker operating from an escalated account (i.e. admin), malware or attack behavior on a high-value host (i.e. Domain Controller), multiple machines displaying attack behavior, data exfiltration.
<b>LEVEL 4</b> <i>Severe</i>	<b>SEVERE, IMMEDIATE FUNCTIONAL IMPACT</b> e.g. Successful unauthorized logins, manual malicious commands being run on a host, alarms signifying an active persistent threat, multiple machines displaying similar attack evidence.
<b>LEVEL 3</b> <i>High</i>	<b>HIGH POSSIBILITY OF FUNCTIONAL IMPACT</b> e.g. Credential loss due to phishing, verified malware execution on one or more hosts, detection of unauthorized program tasks or user activities.
<b>LEVEL 2</b> <i>Medium</i>	<b>MODERATE POSSIBILITY OF FUNCTIONAL IMPACT</b> e.g. Malware quarantined or blocked, suspicious email(s) quarantined, suspicious inbound/outbound connections blocked, evidence of suspicious sign-in attempts/failures.
<b>LEVEL 1</b> <i>Low</i>	<b>SLIGHT POSSIBILITY OF FUNCTIONAL IMPACT</b> e.g. Vulnerability scan or risk assessment of environment reveals vulnerable services, security holes, or other cyber risk.

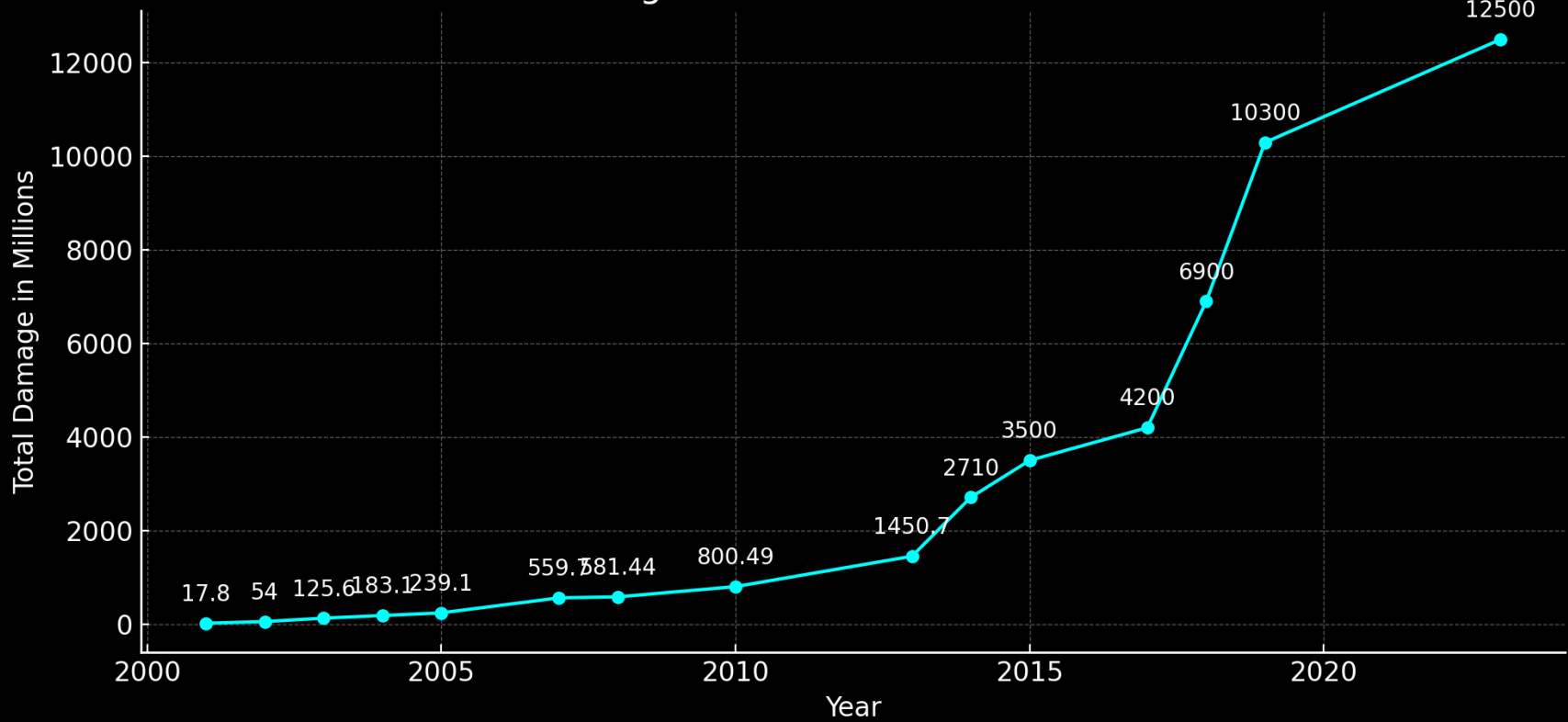
# Number of Breaches Over Time



Source: Verizon Data Breach Investigation Report 2023



## Total Damage in Million U.S. Dollars Over Time



Source: FBI's 2023 IC3 Report

# Organizations Penetrated By Threat Actors

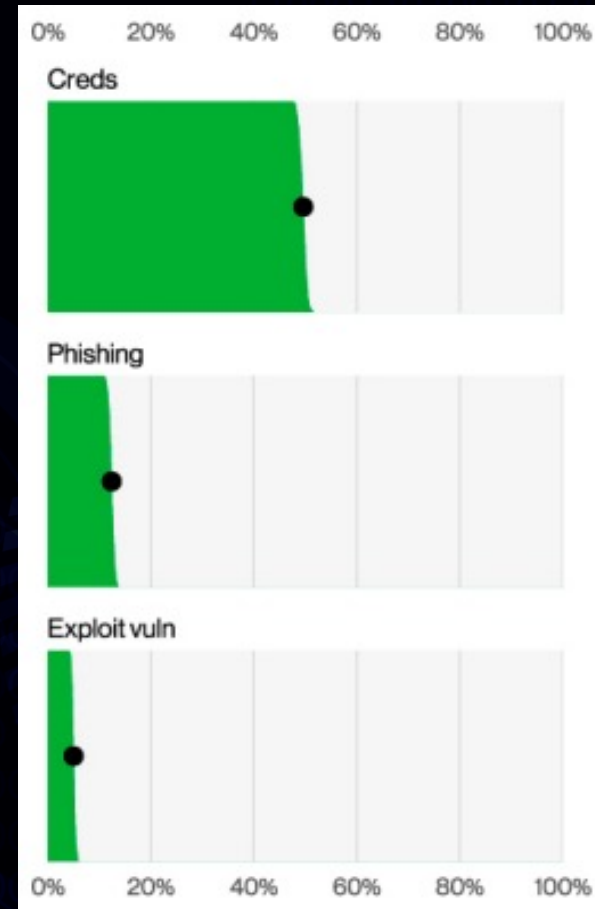
**85%**

**< 1,000 Employees**

**60%**

**> 1,000 Employees**

# Top 3 Ways Attackers Access an Organization



Source: Verizon Data Breach Investigation Report 2023

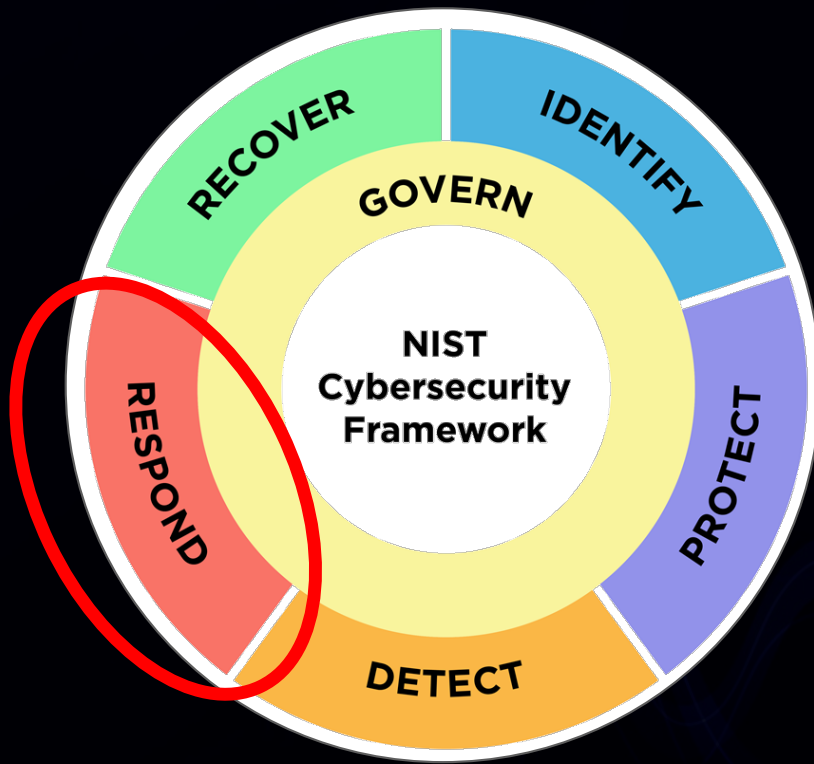
# Breach Response Insights

# Response within Frameworks



CIS Control Groups		
<b>CONTROL 01</b> Inventory and Control of Enterprise Assets 5 Safeguards   I61 2/5   I62 4/5   I63 5/5	<b>CONTROL 02</b> Inventory and Control of Software Assets 7 Safeguards   I61 3/7   I62 6/7   I63 7/7	<b>CONTROL 03</b> Data Protection 14 Safeguards   I61 6/14   I62 12/14   I63 14/14
<b>CONTROL 04</b> Secure Configuration of Enterprise Assets and Software 12 Safeguards   I61 7/12   I62 11/12   I63 12/12	<b>CONTROL 05</b> Account Management 6 Safeguards   I61 4/6   I62 6/6   I63 6/6	<b>CONTROL 06</b> Access Control Management 8 Safeguards   I61 5/8   I62 7/8   I63 8/8
<b>CONTROL 07</b> Continuous Vulnerability Management 7 Safeguards   I61 4/7   I62 7/7   I63 7/7	<b>CONTROL 08</b> Audit Log Management 12 Safeguards   I61 3/12   I62 11/12   I63 12/12	<b>CONTROL 09</b> Email and Web Browser Protections 7 Safeguards   I61 2/7   I62 6/7   I63 7/7
<b>CONTROL 10</b> Malware Defenses 7 Safeguards   I61 3/7   I62 7/7   I63 7/7	<b>CONTROL 11</b> Data Recovery 5 Safeguards   I61 4/5   I62 5/5   I63 5/5	<b>CONTROL 12</b> Network Infrastructure Management 8 Safeguards   I61 1/8   I62 7/8   I63 8/8
<b>CONTROL 13</b> Network Monitoring and Defense 11 Safeguards   I61 0/11   I62 6/11   I63 11/11	<b>CONTROL 14</b> Security Awareness and Skills Training 9 Safeguards   I61 8/9   I62 9/9   I63 9/9	<b>CONTROL 15</b> Service Provider Management 7 Safeguards   I61 1/7   I62 4/7   I63 7/7
<b>CONTROL 16</b> Applications Software Security 14 Safeguards   I61 0/14   I62 11/14   I63 14/14	<b>CONTROL 17</b> Incident Response Management 9 Safeguards   I61 3/9   I62 8/9   I63 9/9	<b>CONTROL 18</b> Penetration Testing 5 Safeguards   I61 0/5   I62 3/5   I63 5/5

# Response within Frameworks



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# Response within Frameworks



	IDENTIFY	PROTECT	DETECT	RESPOND	RECOVER
DEVICES					
NETWORKS					
APPLICATIONS					
DATA					
USERS					
DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY	TECHNOLOGY			PEOPLE	
	PROCESS & GOVERNANCE				

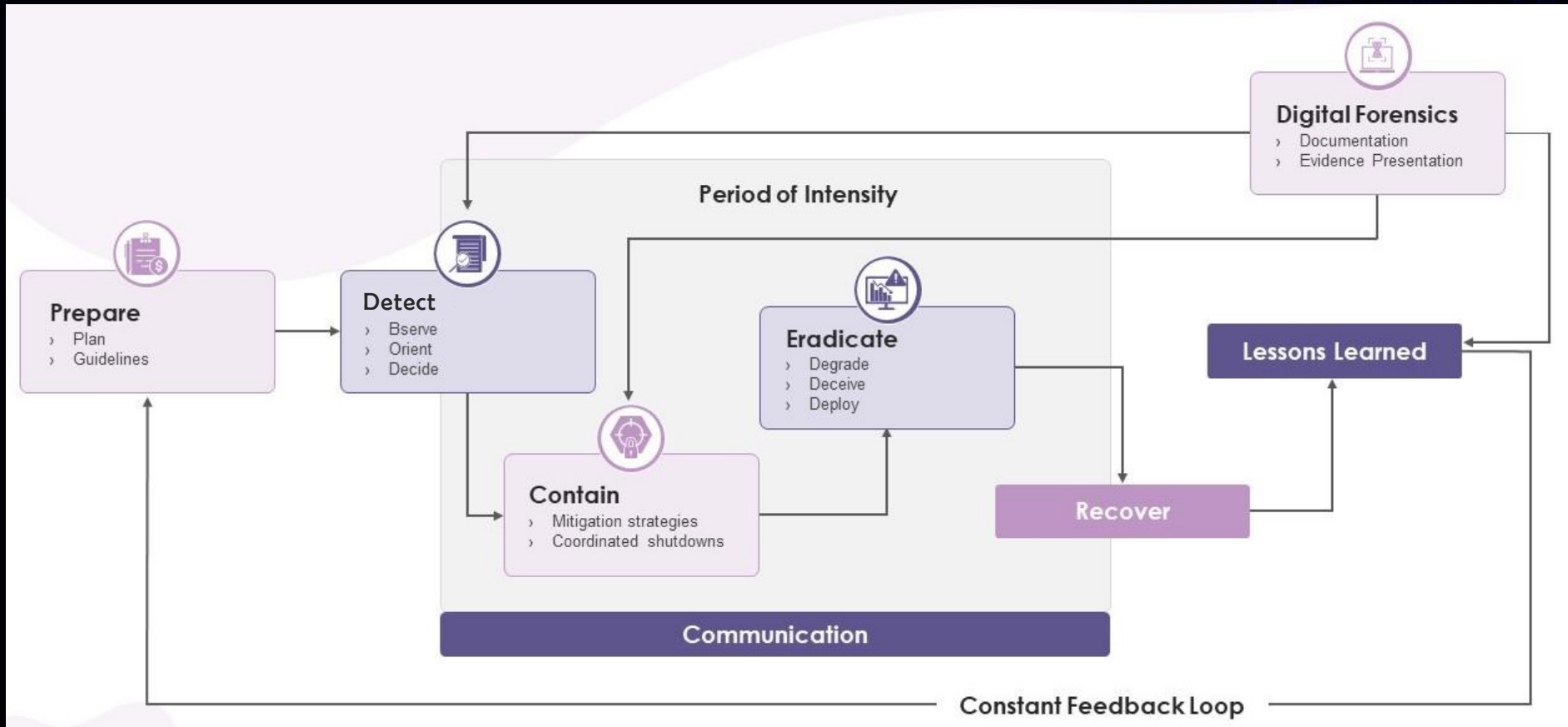
# IT vs Cyber Teams



	IDENTIFY	PROTECT	DETECT	RESPOND	RECOVER
DEVICES					
NETWORKS					
APPLICATIONS					
DATA					
USERS					
DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY	TECHNOLOGY	PROCESS & GOVERNANCE			PEOPLE



# Response Lifecycle



# Average Recovery Times

**Mailbox  
Compromise**

**Ransomware**

**24  
HRS**

**24  
DAYS**

# Real World Stories

# Business Email Compromise

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## Company Profile

Cold Storage Warehousing  
50 Employees  
Internal IT Team  
DOT Security Cyber Team

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## Organization Impact

User Mailbox Rules  
User Impacted for the Day

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## Attack Profile

Stolen Credentials Used  
MFA Bombing

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## Preventative Measures

End User Education

# Ransomware

## Company Profile

Oregon & Louisiana DMV  
State IT and Cyber Teams

## Organization Impact

Most operations sustained  
File transfer capabilities impacted

## Attack Profile

Software Vulnerability Attack  
6mm and 3.5mm records stolen  
Drivers License, SSN & PII Data  
MoveIT Software Bug  
Data held for extortion  
No ransome paid

## Preventative Measures

Being prepared

# Ransomware

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## Company Profile

Electrical Contractor  
250 Employees & 7 locations  
Part of holding company  
MSP IT Partner  
No Cybersecurity Partner

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## Organization Impact

Loss of operations for 30 days  
C Level Panic  
Reputational Loss

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## Attack Profile

Encryption of all endpoints  
\$6.5mm ransom demanded

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## Preventative Measures

Improved IT Practices  
Basic Cybersecurity Services  
Incident Response Plan

# Example Ransomware Screen

```
AKIRA

Well, you are here. It means that you're suffering from cyber incident right now. Think of our
as an unscheduled forced audit of your network for vulnerabilities. Keep in mind that there is a
price to make it all go away. Do not rush to assess what is happening - we did it to you. The best
you can do is to follow our instructions to get back to your daily routine, by cooperating with us
will minimize the damage that might be done. Those who choose different path will be shamed here
The functionality of this blog is extremely simple - enter the desired command in the input line
enjoy the juiciest information that corporations around the world wanted to stay confidential.
You are unable to recover without our help. Your data is already gone and cannot be traced to the
of final storage nor deleted by anyone besides us.

guest@akira:~$ help

List of all commands:

leaks      - hacked companies
news      - news about upcoming data releases
contact    - send us a message and we will contact you
help      - available commands
clear     - clear screen

guest@akira:~$ █
```

# Example Ransomware Screen

• alphv3.txt

## >> Introduction

Important files on your system was ENCRYPTED and now they have have "\${EXTENSION}" extension.  
In order to recover your files you need to follow instructions below.

## >> Sensitive Data

Sensitive data on your system was DOWNLOADED and it will be PUBLISHED if you refuse to cooperate.

Data includes:

- Employees personal data, CVs, DL, SSN.
- Complete network map including credentials for local and remote services.
- Financial information including clients data, bills, budgets, annual reports, bank statements.
- Complete datagrams/schemas/drawings for manufacturing in solidworks format
- And more...

Private preview is published here: [http://alphvmm27o3abo3r2mlajrpdzle3rykajqc5xsj7j7ejkebpsa36ad.onion/\[snip\]](http://alphvmm27o3abo3r2mlajrpdzle3rykajqc5xsj7j7ejkebpsa36ad.onion/[snip])

## >> CAUTION

DO NOT MODIFY FILES YOURSELF.

DO NOT USE THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE TO RESTORE YOUR DATA.

YOU MAY DAMAGE YOUR FILES, IT WILL RESULT IN PERMANENT DATA LOSS.

YOUR DATA IS STRONGLY ENCRYPTED, YOU CAN NOT DECRYPT IT WITHOUT CIPHER KEY.

## >> Recovery procedure

Follow these simple steps to get in touch and recover your data:

- 1) Download and install Tor Browser from: <https://torproject.org/>
- 2) Navigate to: [http://sty5r4hhb5oihbq2mvevrofdiqbges166rvxr5sr573xgvtuvr4cs5yd.onion/?access-key=\\${ACCESS\\_KEY}](http://sty5r4hhb5oihbq2mvevrofdiqbges166rvxr5sr573xgvtuvr4cs5yd.onion/?access-key=${ACCESS_KEY})



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# Example Ransomware Chats

[redacted]: Help?  
12/30/2020, 2:34:05 PM

Support: Hello  
12/30/2020, 2:56:23 PM

Support: Are you ready to negotiate?  
12/30/2020, 2:57:23 PM

Support: As you already know - your network and all of your data were encrypted by CONTI team. Besides the encryption process we've downloaded a large pack of your internal documents and files that will be published in case our negotiations fail. How it happens can be seen on our website <https://continews.best/> (TOR mirror: <http://fylszpcqfel7joif.onion>). The recovery price is \$8500000 (302.5 BTC). This initial offer is based on the details about your revenue and internal financial documents we currently have access to. If you want to make sure we can recover all of your data - you can send us the two files of your choice and we will decrypt them free of charge. If we reach mutual agreement you will be provided with decryption tool, none of your internal data will be published, all the backdoors will be removed from your network and you will be provided with security tips on how to avoid further breaches. We strongly recommend to review our offer in a timely manner to avoid additional expenses from your side on security software and on building the new network from scratch.

12/30/2020, 3:07:43 PM

[redacted]: That's a crazy price. How do we even know if this will work?  
12/30/2020, 3:14:33 PM

Support: You can send 2 files for decrypt. Its free.  
12/30/2020, 3:15:25 PM

Support: Are you ready to transfer money?  
1/8/2021, 2:41:45 PM

[redacted]: Yes. I would like to fix the problem but I don't have this amount of money. Please tell me how we can resolve.  
1/8/2021, 5:27:46 PM

Support: According to the public records your revenue is [more than 30],000,000\$, so this price is reasonable. [https://www.dnb.com/business-directory/company-profiles.\[redacted\].html](https://www.dnb.com/business-directory/company-profiles.[redacted].html) Also you should remember that the price is much cheaper then you will pay lawsuits, that your clients will send you and government fines, because you have lost so much of their data.

1/8/2021, 5:37:26 PM

[redacted]: We would like to fix this problem but we have been out of service during Covid and do not have this amount of money. I am trying to fix and please let me know what we can do.  
1/8/2021, 7:09:42 PM

Support: What is your best proposal?  
1/8/2021, 7:12:28 PM

[redacted]: I have the ability to send 20,000 as soon as I can transfer money. I would like to get this fixed and please let me know if we can get this fixed.  
1/8/2021, 7:40:16 PM

[redacted]: How can we test to see if this can be fixed?  
1/8/2021, 7:41:25 PM

Support: We could not accept that offer, but we could reduce the price and give you the new one 800,000\$. We could decrypt 1-2 files as samples.  
1/8/2021, 8:04:33 PM

# Top 5 Cybersecurity Tips

# #1 Train Employees

A group of people in a meeting room, some standing and some sitting at a table, engaged in a discussion. The scene is dimly lit, with a whiteboard visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

- **Scheduled**
- **Monitored**
- **Risky User Action Plans**
- **Reporting**
- **Build a cyber aware culture**

## #2 Unknown System Bugs

- **Know what systems you have**
- **Patch hardware & software monthly – quarterly**
- **Apply critical patches ASAP**
- **Manage patch health**

# **#3 Have a Cybersecurity Strategy**

- **Perform a Risk Audit**
- **Provide a Board Room Seat**
- **Cybersecurity Maturity Roadmap**
- **Tested Incident Response Plan**

## **#4 Identify & Monitor Assets**

- **Clear reporting of users, licenses, subscriptions and devices**
- **Reporting of system health**
- **Properly managed Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR) software**
- **Properly managed Security Information & Event Management (SIEM) Software**

# #5 Replace Outdated Systems

- **Do not use unsupported systems**
- **Segment outdated systems**
- **Wrap higher level security controls around higher risk systems**



# Top Personal Cybersecurity Tips

# Top Personal Cybersecurity Tips

- **Keep your technology updated**
- **Use a password manager**
- **Backup your data**
- **Trust but verify**
- **Freeze your credit**

# Q&A

The background is a dark blue gradient with a complex digital theme. It features faint binary code (0s and 1s) scattered throughout. There are several overlapping gear-like patterns and a prominent shield icon with a checkmark inside, symbolizing security. The overall aesthetic is high-tech and professional.

# Thank You

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 **impact**