Education Cyber Statistics

ParentPayGroup

UK education is now facing an unprecedented wave of cyber threats. Recent findings reveal a disturbing increase in cyberattacks, with the education sector becoming a prime target for malicious actors. In the past year alone, the education sector witnessed

A staggering 70% surge in attacks

Spotlighting the urgent need for robust cybersecurity measures.

The UK in particular is seen to be amongst the most frequently attacked countries. Indeed, the UK and the USA received over
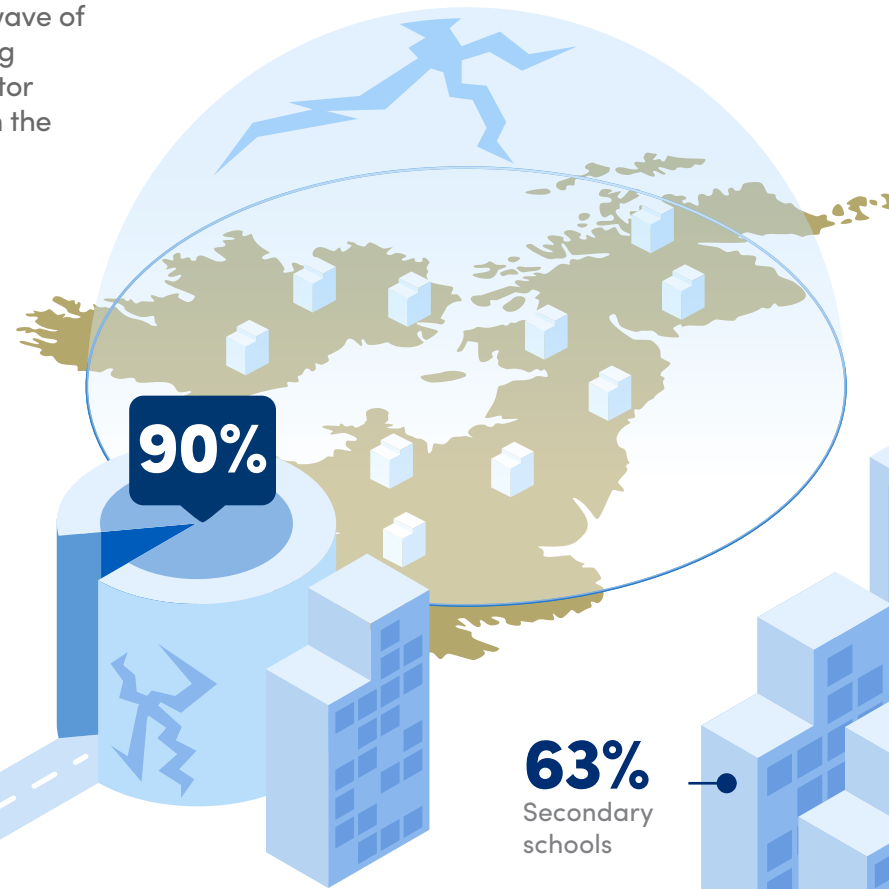
90% of all cyber-attacks in the education sector.

Malwarebytes State of Ransomware in Education 2024

80% of education

organisations were hit by ransomware attacks in 2023 – making our industry the worst affected.

Sophos state of ransomware. 2023

Average ransomware payments have almost doubled

To over £1,000,000

Over 2023, the UK education sector suffered far more than in any other country

67% of data

breach victims learn of the incident via the attacker themselves or other third parties

it takes 277 days to identify and recover

IBM cost of a data breach report 2023

90%

Most types of education institutions are more than twice as likely to report cyber incidents.

85%
Higher education institutions

63%
Secondary schools

82%
Further education colleges

41%
Primary schools

32%
Businesses

Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2023

In addition to any ransom payments, average costs to recover are

over £1.4 million

Dangerous ransomware targeting education

such as Vice Society, who were responsible for 70% of known attacks on UK education institutions.
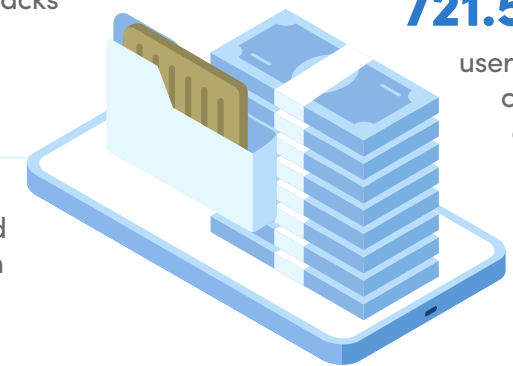
Malwarebytes Ransomware Review UK 2023

76% of UK victims

Were within the education sector

These groups appear to be focussing on underfunded and vulnerable UK education institutions.

Malwarebytes Ransomware Review UK 2023

Account takeover attacks have increased by

over 150%

The volume of stolen credentials published online has more than doubled

721.5M exposed

usernames and password combinations from the criminal underground

Imperva Bad-Bot Report 2023 || Secureworks State Of The Threat 2023 || SpyCloud Malware Readiness and Defense 2023 || Crowdstrike Global Threat Report 2024

15% of schools

have critical weaknesses in their external attack surface.

Over 40%

of edtech suppliers appear to have critically weak patch management practices.

24 hours

dwell time (amount of time between initial access and activating the ransomeware)

More than 50%

of victims had to pay the ransom or were unable to recover their data.