

Ransomware Attack Prevention, Detection, and Response: The Essentials That Can Make a Difference

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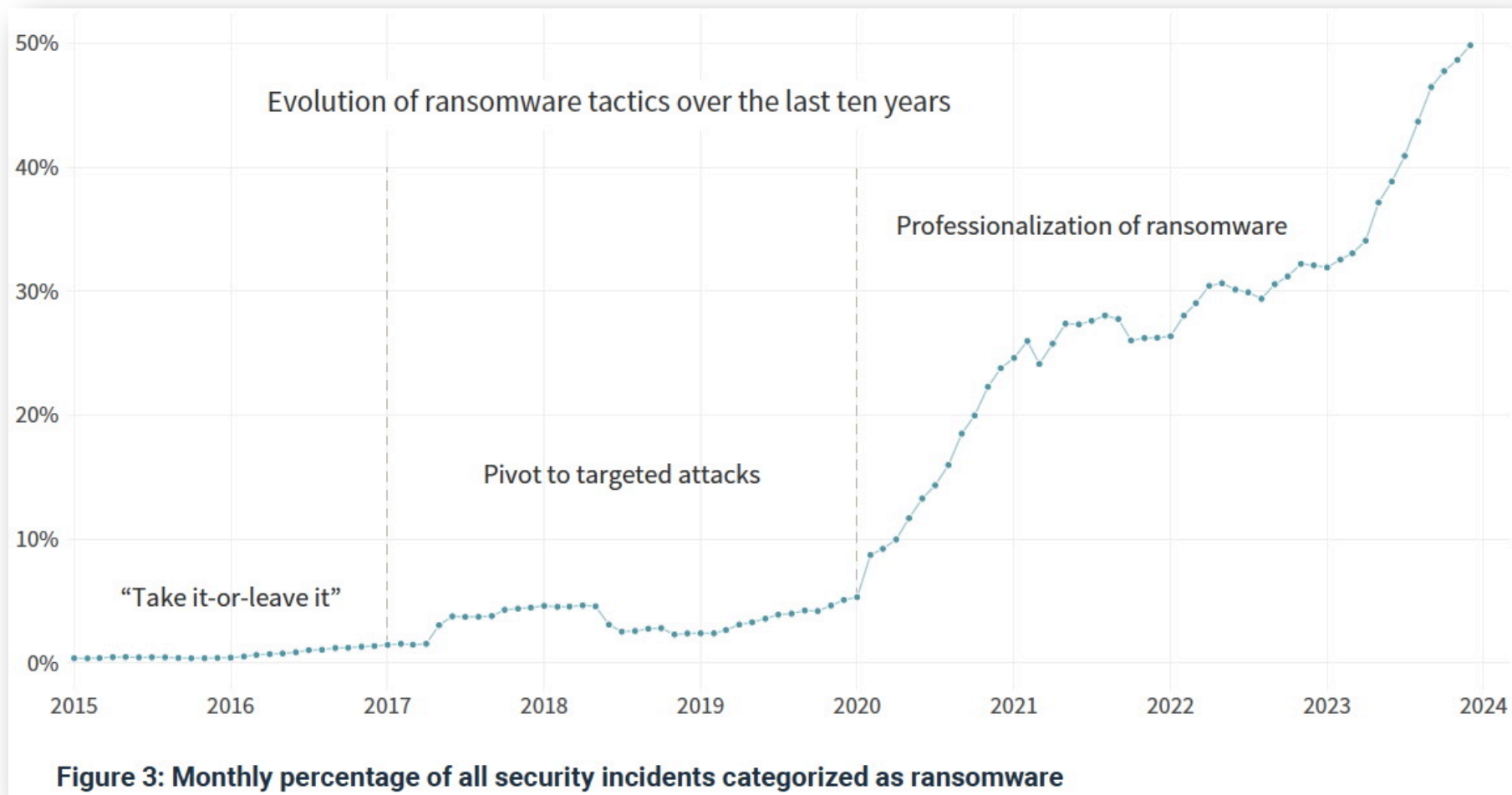
Security Analyst

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2025 FIRST Regional Symposium Latin America & Caribbean
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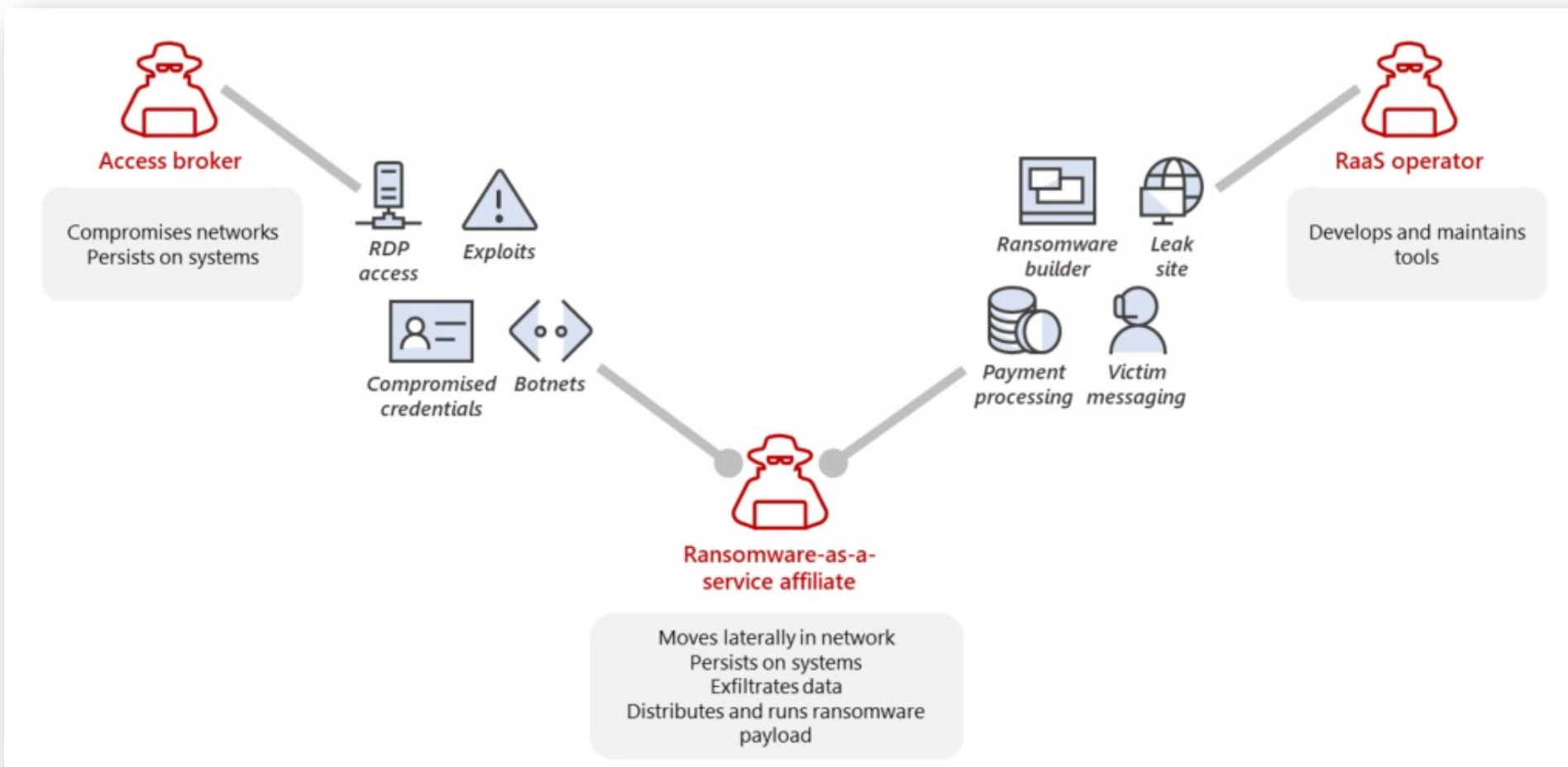
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Ransomware Evolution



Fonte: <https://www.cyentia.com/iris-ransomware/>

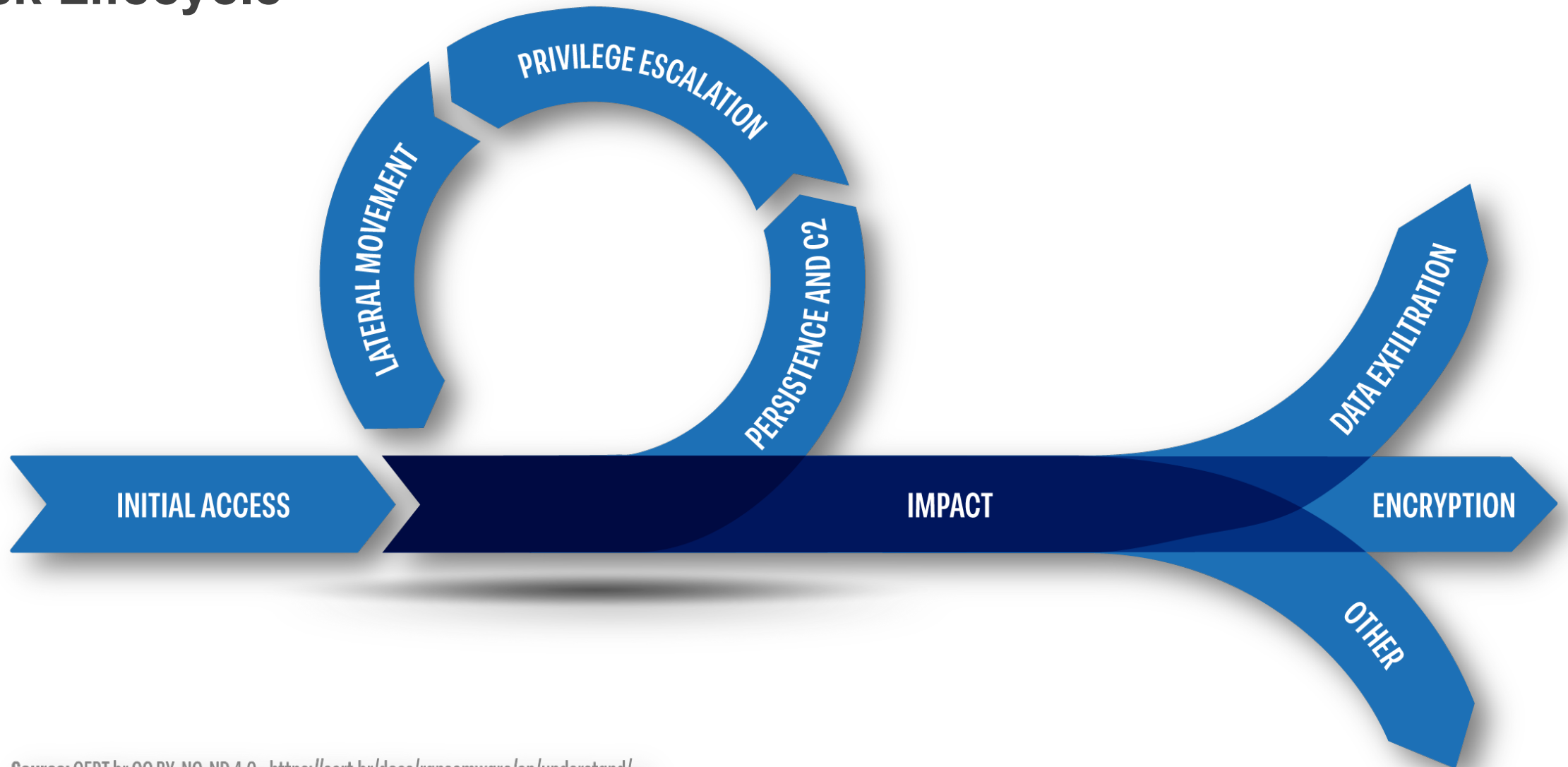
Ransomware as a Service – RaaS



Fonte: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/blog/2022/05/09/ransomware-as-a-service-understanding-the-cybercrime-gig-economy-and-how-to-protect-yourself/>

Ransomware: How it Happens

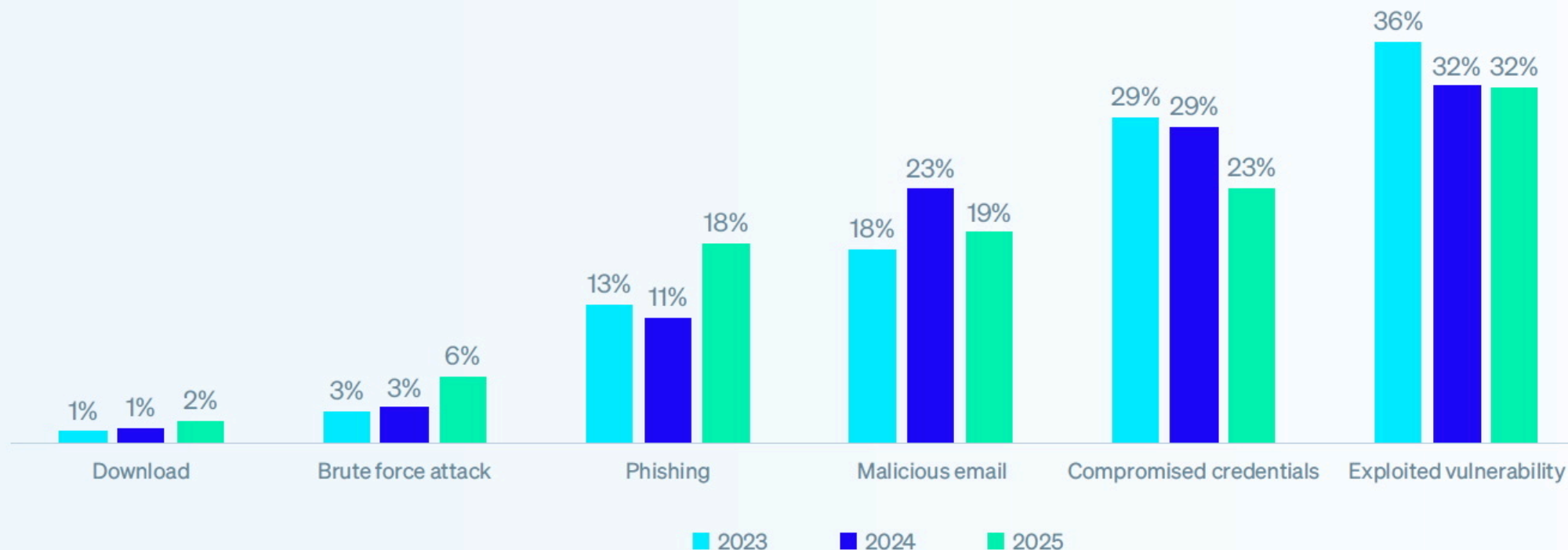
Attack Lifecycle



Source: CERT.br CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 - <https://cert.br/docs/ransomware/en/understand/>

Root Cause

Chart 1: Technical root cause of ransomware attacks 2023–2025



Do you know the root cause of the ransomware attack your organization experienced in the last year? Yes. n=3,400 (2025), 2,974 (2024), 1,974 (2023).

Fonte: <https://www.sophos.com/pt-br/content/state-of-ransomware>

#StopRansomware: RansomHub Ransomware

Release Date: August 29, 2024

Alert Code: AA24-242A

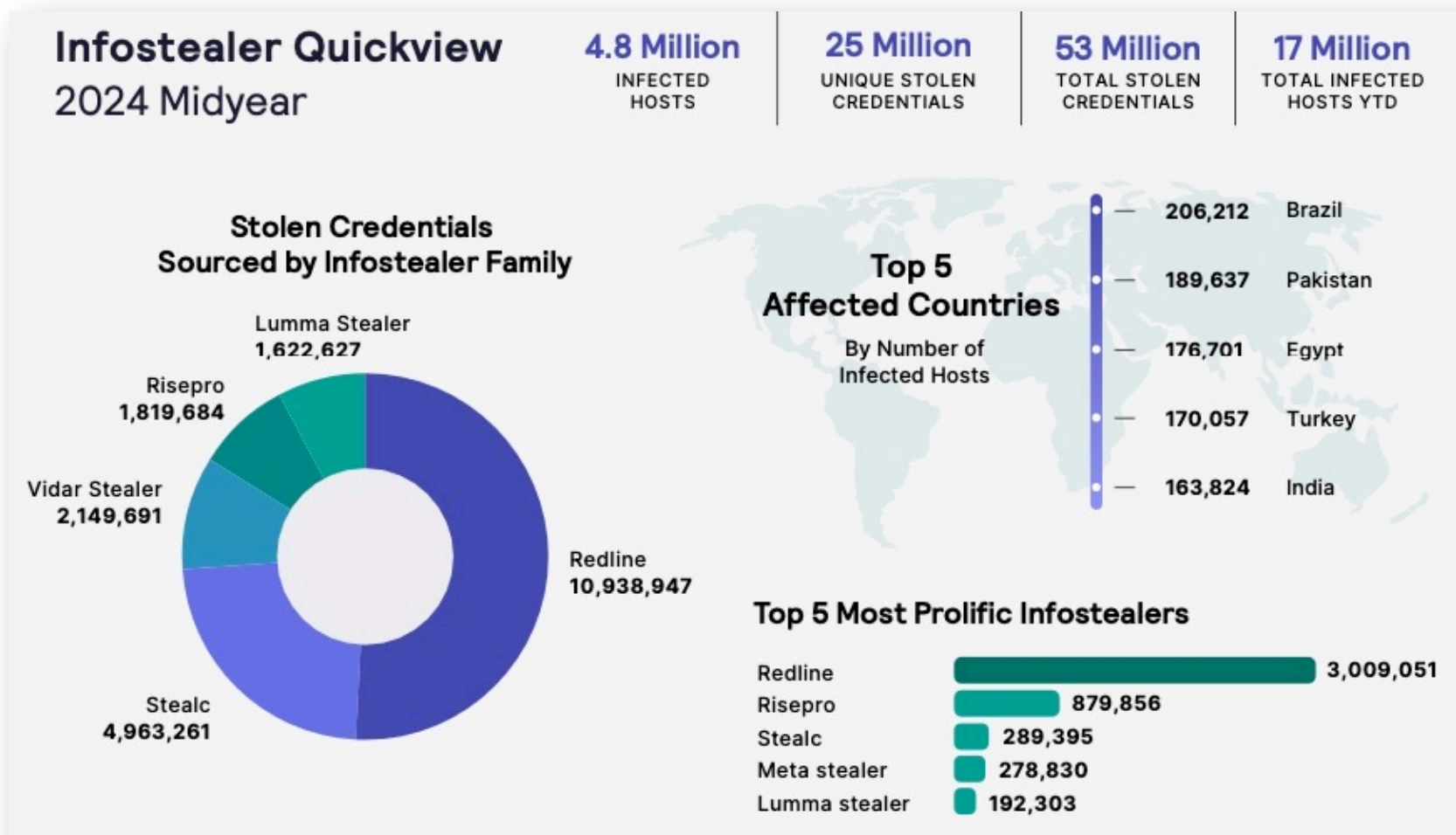
Initial Access

RansomHub affiliates typically compromise internet facing systems and user endpoints by using methods such as phishing emails [T1566^{cf}], exploitation of known vulnerabilities [T1190^{cf}], and password spraying [T1110.003^{cf}]. Password spraying targets accounts compromised through data breaches. Proof-of-concept exploits are obtained from sources such as ExploitDB and GitHub [T1588.005^{cf}]. Exploits based on the following CVEs have been observed:

- CVE-2023-48788^{cf} (CWE-89^{cf})
 - An improper neutralization of special elements used in an SQL command (SQL injection') in Fortinet FortiClientEMS version 7.2.0 through 7.2.2 and FortiClientEMS 7.0.1 through 7.0.10 allows attacker to execute unauthorized code or commands via specially crafted packets.
- CVE-2017-0144^{cf}
 - The SMBv1 server in Microsoft Windows Vista SP2; Windows Server 2008 SP2 and R2 SP1; Windows 7 SP1; Windows 8.1; Windows Server 2012 Gold and R2; Windows RT 8.1; and Windows 10 Gold, 1511, and 1607; and Windows Server 2016 allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary code via crafted packets, also known as “Windows SMB Remote Code Execution Vulnerability” [T1210^{cf}].

Fonte: <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa24-242a>

Root Cause



Fonte: https://go.flashpoint.io/ransomware_survival_guide

What are The Essentials That Can Make a Difference

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Complete Document and Leaflet

Home > Publications > Ransomware (EN)

Ransomware: Best Practices for Protection, Detection, and Response

In the 4 parts of this document, you will find a description of **how a ransomware attack occurs** and best practices for **protecting** against, **detecting**, and **responding** to these attacks.



"Ransomware: How to Protect" Brochure

Find here a brochure summarizing all parts of the document as well as all the infographics in PNG and SVG formats.

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» [Infographic "Ransomware: How to Detect"](#)

» [Infographic "Ransomware: How to Respond"](#)

Infographics in SVG format

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» [Infographic "Ransomware: How to Protect"](#)

» [Infographic "Ransomware: How to Detect"](#)

» [Infographic "Ransomware: How to Respond"](#)



Part 1: Ransomware: How It Happens

Understanding how ransomware attacks occur helps determine protection, detection, and incident response measures. This document explains the RaaS (Ransomware as a Service) model and the attack phases.

» [Read it here](#)



Part 2: Ransomware: How to Protect

This document presents a layered defense strategy, with multiple, complementary security measures. Thus, even if it's not possible to completely prevent an attack, it's possible to take steps to slow it down, limit its impact, and increase operational resilience.

» [Read it here](#)



Part 3: Ransomware: How to Detect

This document presents ways to detect ransomware attacks at different stages, in different ways, and with varying levels of detail. The earlier the detection occurs, the less impact it will have on the organization and, consequently, less effort is required for response.

» [Read it here](#)



Part 4: Ransomware: How to Respond

This document outlines the minimum steps for responding to a ransomware attack, covering how to contain its spread, eliminate the attacker's presence, eradicate the root cause of the intrusion, restore the environment, and return to normal operation.

» [Read it here](#)

RANSOMWARE: HOW TO PROTECT

Understand how it happens, how to protect your network and prepare the environment for detection, and how to respond if you become a victim.

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<https://cert.br/docs/ransomware/en/>

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Ransomware: mejores prácticas para protección, detección y respuesta

En las cuatro partes de este documento encontrará una descripción de **cómo se producen los ataques de ransomware**, así como mejores prácticas para **protegerlos, detectarlos y responder** ante estos ataques.

Apoyo de difusión:




Folieto
"Ransomware: cómo protegernos"

Encuentre aquí un folleto que resume todas las partes del documento, así como las infografías en formatos PNG y SVG.



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Parte 1:
Ransomware: cómo se produce

Comprender cómo se producen los ataques de *ransomware* ayuda a definir medidas de protección, detección y respuesta ante estos incidentes. Este documento explica el modelo RaaS (*Ransomware as a Service*) y las fases de un ataque.

» [Consultar el documento](#)



Parte 2:
Ransomware: cómo protegernos

Este documento presenta una estrategia de defensa por capas que incluye numerosas medidas de seguridad complementarias. De este modo, si bien no siempre es posible prevenir completamente un ataque, sí podemos tomar medidas para ralentizarlo, limitar su impacto y aumentar la resiliencia operativa.

» [Consultar el documento](#)



Parte 3:
Ransomware: cómo detectarlo

Este documento presenta métodos para detectar ataques de *ransomware* en diferentes fases, de distintas formas y con diversos niveles de detalle. Cuanto antes se detecte, menor será el impacto en la empresa y, por lo tanto, en los esfuerzos de respuesta.

» [Consultar el documento](#)



Parte 4:
Ransomware: cómo responder

Este documento detalla los pasos mínimos para responder a un ataque de *ransomware* y describe cómo contener su propagación, eliminar la presencia del atacante, erradicar la causa raíz de la intrusión, restaurar el entorno y reanudar la operación normal.

» [Consultar el documento](#)

RANSOMWARE: CÓMO PROTEGERNOS

Descubra cómo funcionan los ataques, cómo proteger su red y prepararla para detectarlos, y cómo responder en caso de convertirse en víctima.



<https://cert.br/docs/ransomware/es/>

Apoyo de difusión:

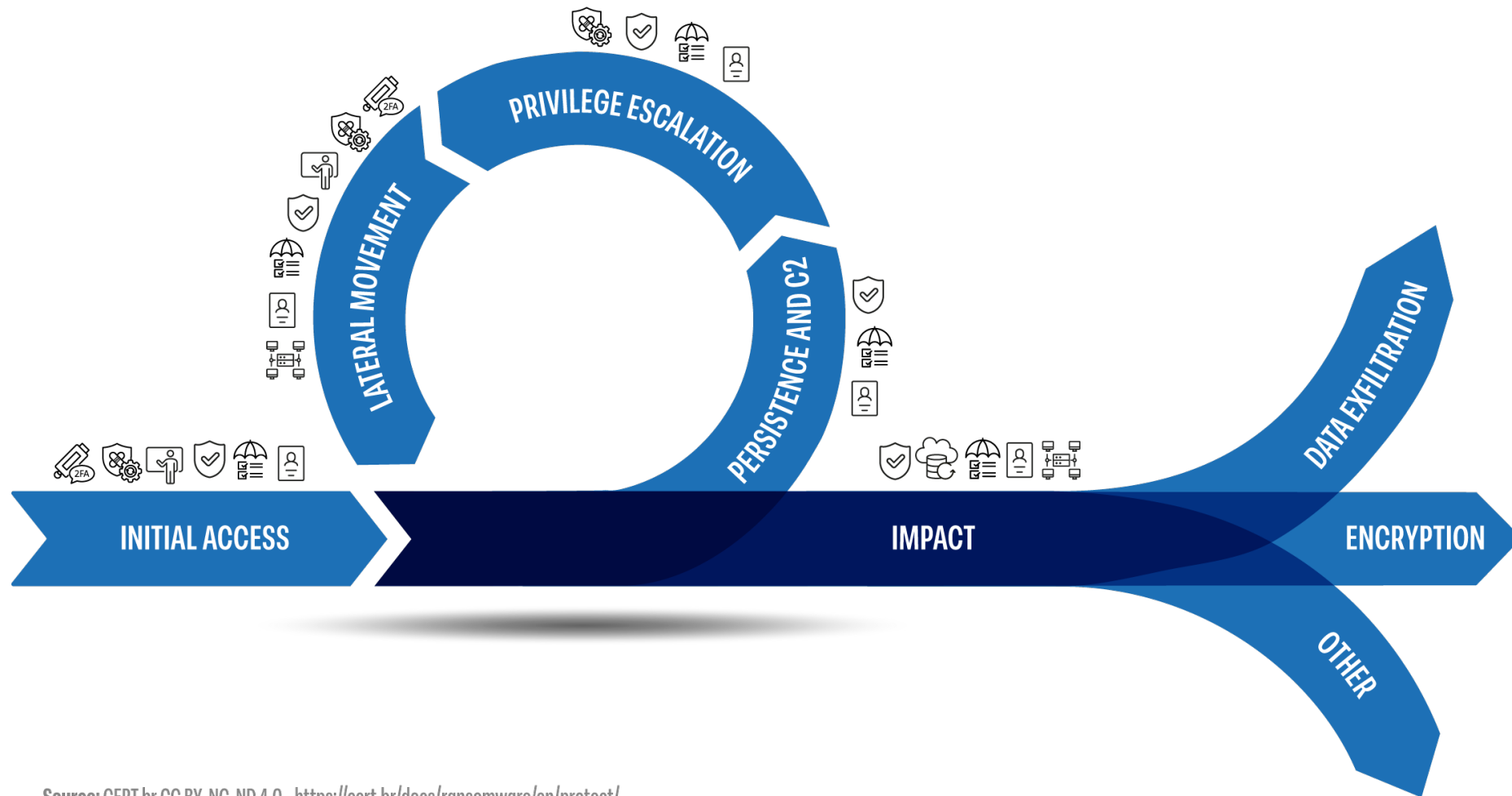

Producción:


The background of the slide features a dark gray circuit board pattern with white lines and circular components. A central horizontal band is a lighter gray gradient.

Better Safe Than Sorry

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Prevention: The Essentials That Can Make a Difference



Source: CERT.br CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 - <https://cert.br/docs/ransomware/en/protect/>

Prevention: The Essentials That Can Make a Difference



USE MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Require multifactor authentication for remote access to the network, web services, cloud services, and users with administrator privileges.



PERFORM VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT

Manage vulnerabilities using a risk-based prioritization strategy.



RAISE EMPLOYEE AWARENESS

Train employees and contractors to recognize and report potential security issues.



USE SECURITY TOOLS

Implement network protection and monitoring tools.



CREATE AND PROTECT BACKUPS

Make regular backups. Keep at least one copy offline. Protect against unauthorized access and regularly test that data integrity is intact and restores are effective.



REDUCE THE ATTACK SURFACE

Disable unused services and avoid exposing other services unnecessarily.



MANAGE IDENTITIES AND ACCESS

Grant accounts only for essential access and only for the necessary time.



IMPLEMENT NETWORK SEGMENTATION

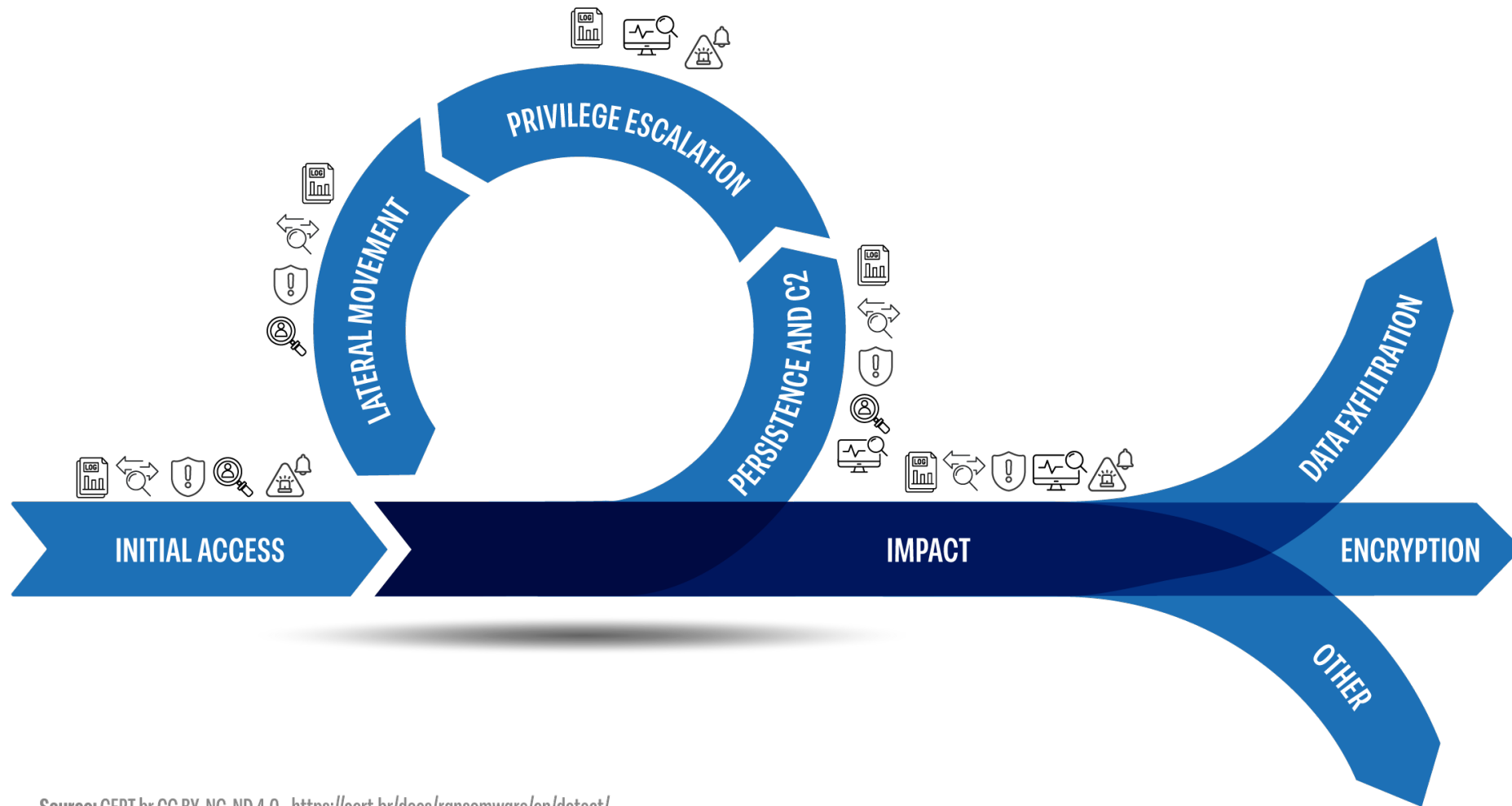
Divide the network into smaller, segregated segments.

What If Initial Access Cannot Be Prevented?

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Detection – The Essentials That Can Make a Difference

Layered Defense



Source: CERT.br CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 - <https://cert.br/docs/ransomware/en/detect/>

Detection – The Essentials That Can Make a Difference

The earlier the detection, the quicker the response



ENABLE AND ANALYZE LOGS

Enable and analyze logs generated on equipment and systems.
Enable Netflows on network devices and firewalls.



MONITOR NETWORK TRAFFIC

Monitor incoming and outgoing Internet traffic, and internal traffic between organization networks.



WATCH FOR ALERTS COMING FROM SECURITY TOOLS

Monitor security tool alerts to detect suspicious activity and, if possible, block it.



MONITOR USER AND ADMINISTRATOR ACCOUNTS

Monitoring the creation of user and administrator accounts, and any unauthorized access to them.



MONITOR THE USE OF SYSTEMS

Monitor the use of systems to detect changes in configurations, data transfer and encryption, and the installation of malware and remote access tools.



ESTABLISH A CHANNEL TO RECEIVE SECURITY NOTIFICATIONS

Have a public contact to receive security notifications from people both external and internal to the organization.

Response: It's Necessary to be Prepared

The faster the response, the lesser the impact

1



FOLLOW THE INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN

Define roles and train contacts to be involved in the response.
Document the actions taken and the information collected.

2



CONTAIN THE ATTACK

Protect uncompromised systems. Isolate affected systems.
Preserve evidence.

3



IDENTIFY THE RANSOMWARE

Determine the ransomware involved in the attack and understand its behavior.

4



ANALYZE THE COLLECTED INFORMATION

Cross-reference the logs and evidence with the ransomware information.
Determine the root cause and extent of the attack.

Response: It's Necessary to be Prepared

The faster the response, the lesser the impact

5



ELIMINATE THE RANSOMWARE

Remove the malware and any remnants left by the attacker. Reinstall and update compromised systems. Fix the vulnerabilities exploited in the attack.

6



CHANGE PASSWORDS AND REVIEW ACCESS

Change passwords for all accounts. Enable multi-factor authentication. Eliminate the accounts and privileges added by the attacker.

7



RESTORE DATA AND CONNECTIVITY

Recover data from reliable backups or, if necessary, check for malware decryption keys. Reconnect the equipment to the network.

8



IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT WITH THE LESSONS LEARNED

Analyze and document the incident. Increase monitoring and security measures. Update the Incident Response Plan.

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