

2024

Hybrid Security Trends Report

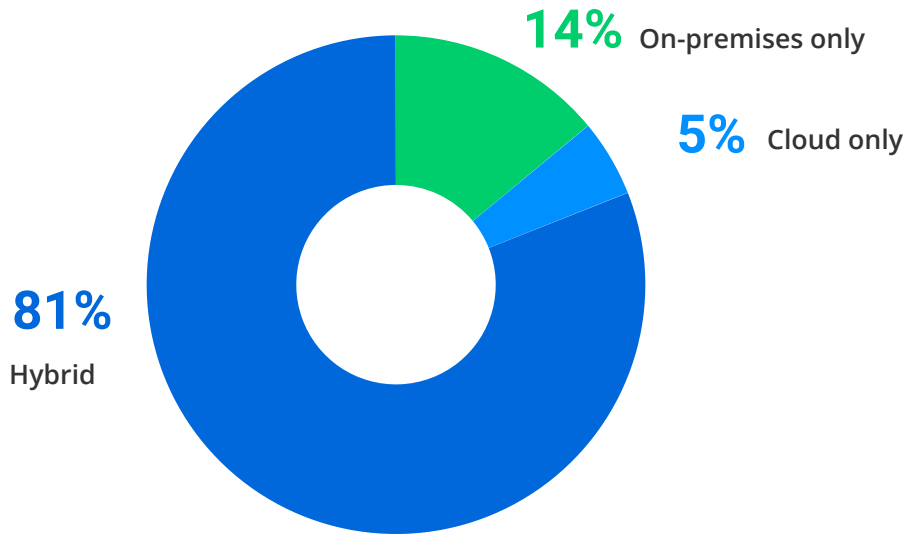
Additional Findings for the Education Sector



CLOUD ADOPTION

81% of educational institutions have a hybrid IT architecture compared to 74% across other industries. Among those 14% that are strictly on premises, 47% plan to adopt cloud technologies moving forward.

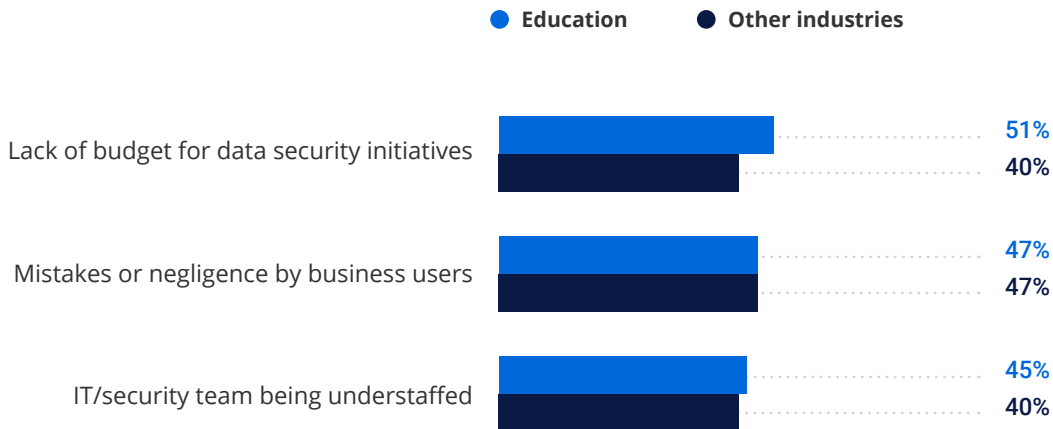
IT architecture of educational institutions



SECURITY CHALLENGES

Half of educational institutions (51%) name lack of budget as their biggest data security challenge, followed by users' mistakes and negligence.

Top data security challenges of educational institutions



“

Universities or school districts can have as many user accounts as some global multi-national businesses. While educational institutions may have the same complexity as large organizations, they typically lack matching budgets and resources to deal with their dynamic environments. It is crucial for the IT Security teams in the education sector to have processes and tools in place to govern the identities, audit their activity, and monitor for any abnormal or malicious behavior.



Ilia Sotnikov

Security Strategist at Netwrix

“

To enable research and collaboration, while staying on budget, educational institutions often provide a variety of shared devices and systems exposed to the internet – creating a massive attack surface. To mitigate risk, it is crucial to enforce strong password policies that prevent the use of weak and compromised passwords, implement multifactor authentication (MFA), and adhere to the least privilege principle.



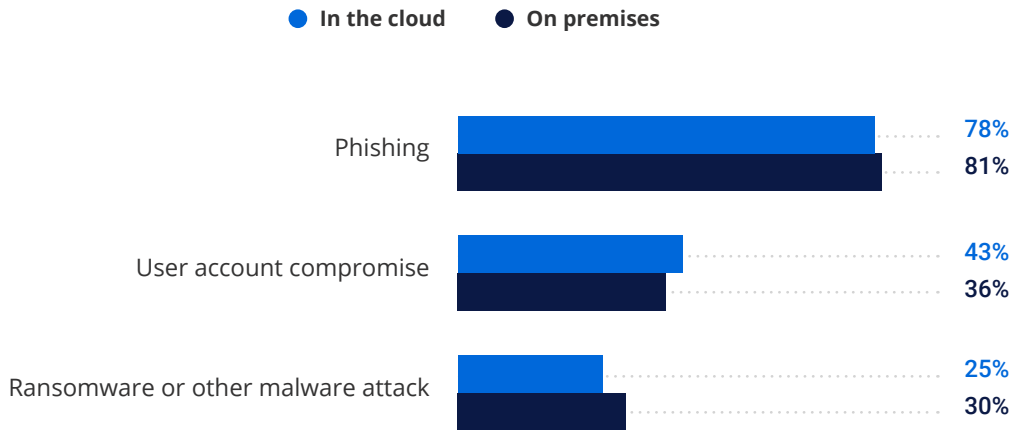
Dirk Schrader

VP of Security Research at Netwrix

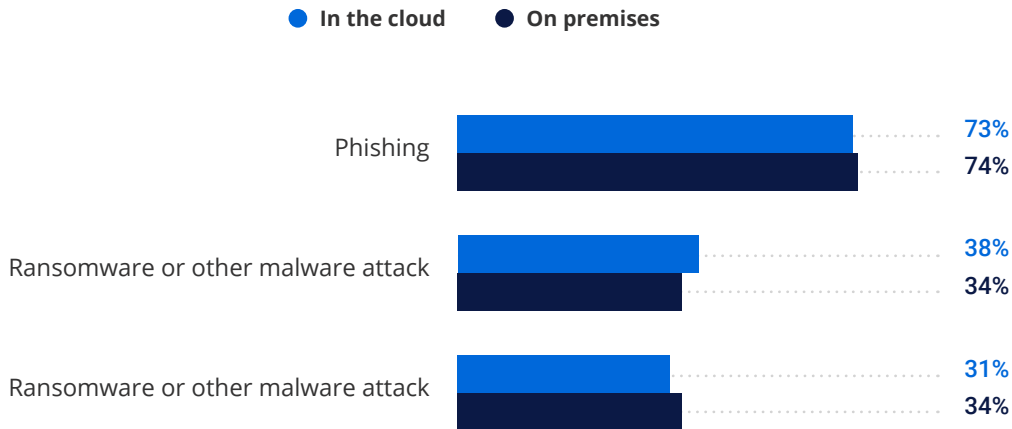
SECURITY INCIDENTS

77% of organizations in the education sector spotted a cyberattack on their infrastructure within the last 12 months, up from 69% in 2023. The most common attack vectors were similar to those among other industries: Phishing, user account compromise, and ransomware or other malware attacks.

Most common security incidents in the education sector



Most common security incidents across other industries





Many cloud services are given to the educational institutions at a discounted rate. Naturally, it leads to more frequent usage of such services. Default security settings combined with a high turnover of cloud identities in use results in a larger attack surface and, therefore, in more frequent attacks in the cloud compared with other industries surveyed.



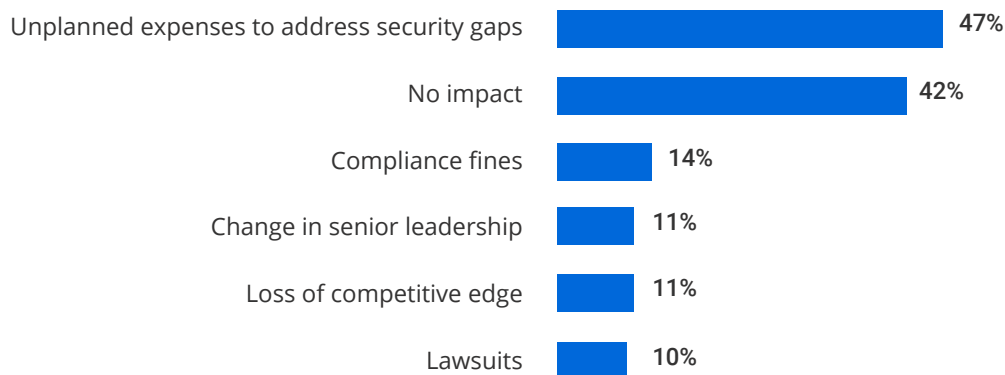
Dirk Schrader

VP of Security Research at Netwrix

CYBERATTACK CONSEQUENCES

Almost half (47%) of educational organizations faced unplanned expenses to fix security gaps because of a security incident. Moreover, 1 in 7 of those organizations incurred compliance fines, and each tenth reported changes in senior leadership and lawsuits.

Cyberattack consequences for the education sector



“

An incident can reveal security gaps such as excessive admin privileges, dormant accounts, weak or unchanged passwords, default passwords or configurations, and unpatched systems due to negligence or lack of knowledge. Fixing a gap might not immediately require spending additional money but will definitely require time from the IT security team. In other words, addressing the root cause of a security incident.



Dirk Schrader

VP of Security Research at Netwrix

“

In the aftermath of a breach, organizations must prioritize remediation steps to reduce risks moving forward. For example, the immediate response may include patching software on the most critical servers and adding a manual review step on certain operations. Longer-term remediation may have to wait for the next budget cycle and require additional software, services engagement, or headcount.



Ilia Sotnikov

Security Strategist at Netwrix

ABOUT THE REPORT

The report is brought to you by Netwrix Research Lab, which conducts industry surveys among IT pros worldwide to discover important changes and trends. For more reports, please visit www.netwrix.com/research

ABOUT NETWRIX

Netwrix champions cybersecurity to ensure a brighter digital future for any organization. Netwrix's innovative solutions safeguard data, identities, and infrastructure reducing both the risk and impact of a breach for more than 13,500 organizations across 100+ countries. Netwrix empowers security professionals to face digital threats with confidence by enabling them to identify and protect sensitive data as well as to detect, respond to, and recover from attacks.

For more information, visit www.netwrix.com

Corporate Headquarters:

6160 Warren Parkway, Suite 100, Frisco, TX, US 75034

Phone: 1-949-407-5125 **Toll-free:** 888-638-9749 **EMEA:** +44 (0) 203-588-3023



www.netwrix.com/social

Copyright © Netwrix Corporation. All rights reserved. Netwrix is trademark of Netwrix Corporation and/or one or more of its subsidiaries and may be registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.