Cyber Threats Confronting State and Local Governments

7 in 10

Leaders at local and state governments faced ransomware attacks in 2023. Most of those attacks started either through unpatched systems or stolen passwords.

183

Incidents in the public sector in January 2024 alone, including both ransomware attacks and data breaches.

Ransomware attacks occurring in both state and local-level governing bodies increased from 58% in 2022 to 69% in 2023.

68%

Of data breaches involve the human element - with the majority due to stolen or weak passwords, credentials and secrets.

Cyber attacks at government organizations remain high in 2024, as the government continues to be one of the most targeted sectors.

Top state and local government cyber threats

1. Intrusion into local critical infrastructure
2. Ransomware attacks
3. Espionage and data breaches
4. Supply chain attacks
5. Insider threats

Impacts of a successful public sector cyber attack

- Stolen sensitive data
- Financial damage
- Loss of critical services

How to strengthen cybersecurity in government

- Require Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for all logins.
- Require all staff to use strong, unique passwords and change them on a regular basis. A password manager can help with this.
- Actively monitor network and devices for suspicious activity.
- Back up critical data and do regular testing on your backups.
- Protect your most sensitive systems and data with Privileged Access Management (PAM).
- Implement regular cybersecurity training, including phishing simulations, for all staff.

Keeper Security Government Cloud (KSGC) password manager and privileged access manager is FedRAMP Authorized and enables government organizations to achieve complete visibility, security, control and reporting across every user, on every device.

KSGC is cloud based, enables zero-trust and zero-knowledge security and helps public sector organizations meet compliance mandates by unifying three integral solutions into one unified platform – enterprise-grade password, secrets and privileged connection management.

To learn more about how to protect your organization against cyber attacks, visit keeper.io/ksgc

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Sources: Axios, IT Governance, Verizon DBIR, WatchGuard, IBM