

Cyber security threats

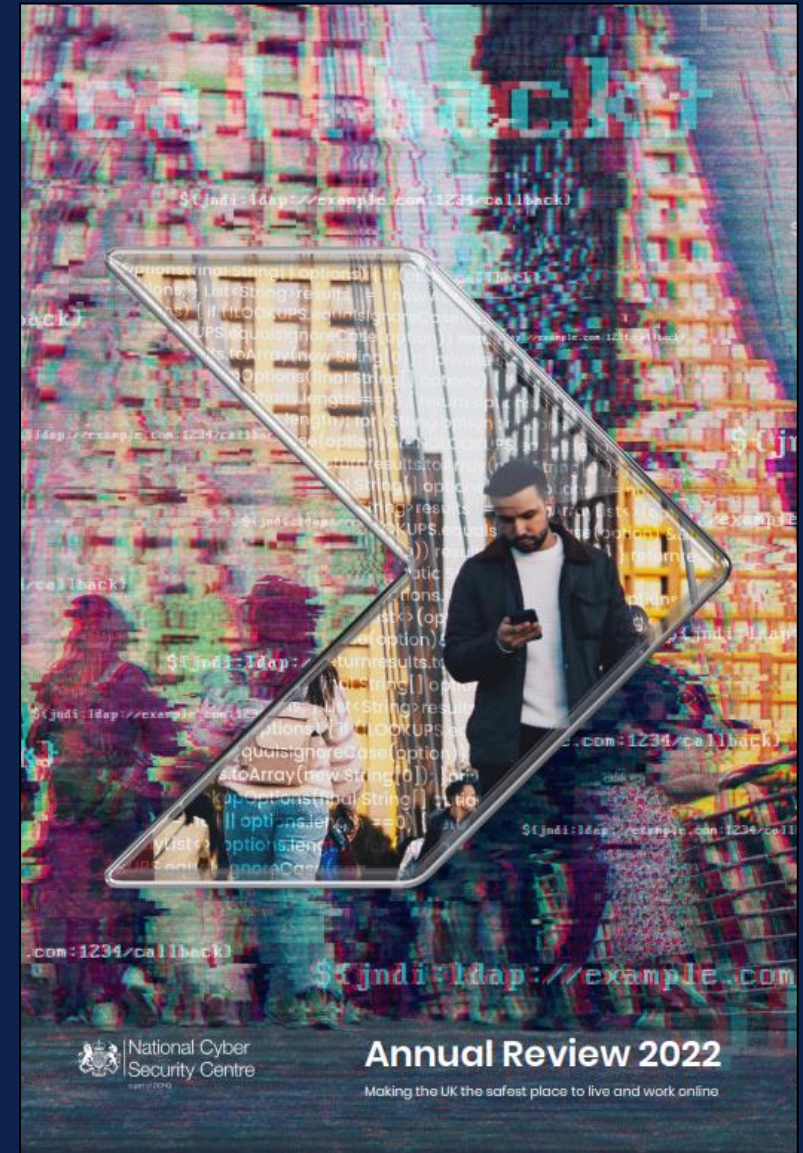
Henry Hughes, CTO Cyber Security

UK cyber security landscape

“Ransomware remains the most acute threat that businesses and organisations in the UK face.”

“This year, 18 ransomware incidents required a nationally co-ordinated response...”

“... the true numbers of ransomware attacks in the UK each year are far higher, as organisations often do not report the compromises.”



The threat landscape



“Ransomware is no longer just a financial crime; it is an urgent national security risk”
*Ransomware Task Force**

2021 – **18** universities and colleges seriously impacted by ransomware

2022 – **19** universities and colleges seriously impacted by ransomware

2023 – **9** universities and colleges seriously impacted by ransomware in the first 6 months

Direct impact costs - per institution - £2M

Service disruption between 10 and 20 days



* <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/ransomware-taskforce-rtf-announce-framework-to-combat-ransomware>

Risks and threats

- Security risks often appear hidden or abstract to users
- More widely understood risks, fire, road safety or health and safety security risks are often not immediate or obvious
 - Reusing passwords
 - Not using strong passwords
 - Not using two-step verification (MFA)
 - Failing to apply a security update
 - Continuing to use software and hardware beyond the end of its service life
- Turning up to a ransomware incident feels like ***'the fire service turning up to a house that has already burned down'***



Recommendations

- The dynamic security landscape necessitates a culture of continual improvement
- The complexity and difficulty of establishing and maintaining strong security posture should not be *underestimated in terms of resources and effort required*
- *Regular rehearsals* and testing are an *essential* part of security preparedness
- Sharing services, experience and expertise strengthens the whole community
- Supply chain compromises now a regular occurrence

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