

# Local Municipalities' Hidden Vulnerability

## Cybersecurity Challenges in Local Government Entities

The potential impact of a successful cyberattack on a municipality, public utility, school or local government entity can be devastating, ranging from disrupted services and financial losses to compromised sensitive information and erosion of public trust.



### Why is Cybersecurity Crucial in Local Public Organizations?



#### Highly Sensitive and Valuable Data

Municipalities possess large amounts of sensitive data attractive to hackers, including personal information of residents (e.g., social security #'s, tax records) and infrastructure data (e.g., billing systems, surveillance).



#### Fragile Infrastructure, Limited Technical Resources, and Lack of Knowledge

Many local governments struggle with outdated IT infrastructure, limited cybersecurity budgets, and a lack of cybersecurity awareness. **67% report insufficient cybersecurity measures due to budget constraints, and 60% lack cybersecurity training programs.**



#### Disruption of Services

Many essential services, such as emergency response systems, public transportation, power grids, and water supply rely on digital infrastructure that can be crippled under a cyberattack.



#### Public Trust and Confidence

A cyberattack can erode the integrity of local governments and public trust. This can include fraud, whereby hackers can expose voter registration databases and ballot processing, and manipulate election results.

### Key Metrics

**44%** of global ransomware attacks in 2020 targeted local municipalities.

**\$2.6 million** was the average data breach cost in the governmental public sector in 2023.

Less than **3%** of most states' total IT budget is allocated to cybersecurity.

**53%** of local governments express an inability to compete for cyber talent as a main barrier for sufficient cybersecurity.

### Highlighting Risk: State of Emergency from Ransomware

In December 2019, New Orleans was hit by the Ryuk ransomware, forcing the city to declare a state of emergency. The attack impacted over 450 servers and 3,500 workstations, causing service outages and data loss. Total cost of recovery from the incident exceeded **\$7 million**.



### Tailored Cybersecurity Solutions for State and Local Public Organizations

- **Tailored Cybersecurity Solutions:** Built for the needs of the public sector.
- **Comprehensive Protection:** Combining cybersecurity, IT support, and cyber insurance.
- **Proven Track Record:** Trusted by government organizations nationwide.

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