



THE STATE OF CYBERSECURITY: PHISHING ON THE RISE

In a digital-first world, cybercrime is to be expected. However, cybercriminals are taking advantage of the increased reliance on cloud-based technology and turning to more sophisticated tactics. This is especially true when it comes to phishing attacks against business email inboxes.

The IRONSCALES State of Cybersecurity Report surveyed IT managers and directors and found **81% have experienced an increase in email phishing attacks in the last 18 months** - since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020).

The Fear of Phishing is Real

Because of the sharp increase in email phishing attacks, **90%** of IT professionals believe email phishing is the top cyber threat to their organizations.



Most respondents (90%) feel more confident in their organizations' ability to respond to and remedy a phishing attack now than the year prior.

The C-Suite Sees It

54% of IT professionals claim their senior leadership has placed **a lot more** importance on cybersecurity in the last year, while **37%** say that senior leadership has placed **more importance** on cybersecurity but not enough.



Employees Are on "Mute"...

...when it comes to cybersecurity complacency. Increased phishing threats appear to stem from the move to remote work.

More than **eight out of 10 (84%)** agree that working from home made employees in their respective organizations more complacent to cybersecurity prevention.

Only **one percent** of respondents strongly disagreed with this statement.

So Many Phishing Attacks. So Little Time.

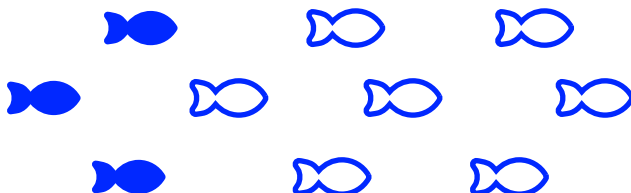
Slightly more than half (52%) of IT professionals spend an equal amount of time dealing with phishing attacks as they do on other cybersecurity issues.

However, **37% of respondents** say remedying phishing attacks is the most resource-consuming task compared to other attacks and nearly **three in 10 IT professionals** spend almost **all their time** addressing phishing attacks.

On average, here's how much time IT professionals and their teams spend remedying each individual phishing attack:

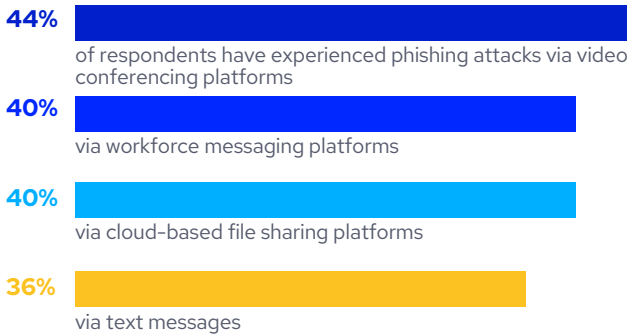


- **74%** spend more than 30 minutes per attack
- **10%** spend more than two hours per attack



More Teams. More Trouble.

Email inboxes were the top target for phishing attacks in the last 12 months, but as organizations have become more reliant on workforce messaging platforms – such as Slack, Microsoft Teams and GroupMe – **one third of IT professionals** have experienced an uptick in other messaging-related cyber-attacks.



Same Time Next Year

With new types of phishing attacks coming out daily, employee training is essential in helping teams spot the latest types of attacks, however **almost 20 percent** of respondents say their organizations only provide cybersecurity awareness training on an annual basis. The same percentage (**19%**) provide this type of training twice a year.

Here's a complete breakdown on frequency of cybersecurity awareness training in the respondents' respective organizations:

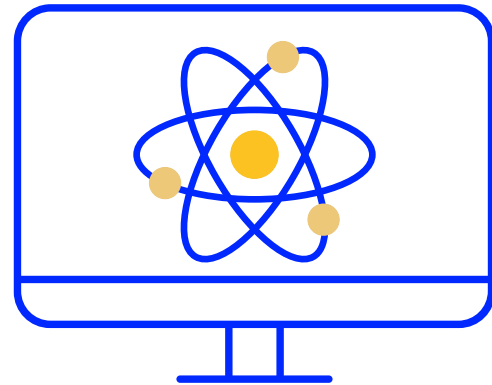
- **32% - quarterly**
- **23% - monthly**
- **19% - twice a year**
- **19% - annually**
- **7% - weekly**



Sheldon for the Cybersecurity Prevention Win

When choosing from a list of television characters to best describe their employees' collective knowledge of cyber security prevention, the surveyed IT professionals chose:

- **36% - Sheldon from The Big Bang Theory**
- **23% - Lisa Simpson**
- **19% - Lieutenant Columbo**
- **17% - Michael Scott**
- **5% - Homer Simpson**



About the Survey

Data cited in this infographic is the result of the 2021 IRONSCALES State of Cybersecurity survey. This information is being provided for informational purposes only. The survey asked over 400 U.S. IT professionals for their thoughts on trends and preventative actions against cyber threats to their organizations. Respondents represent the retail, financial services, education, manufacturing, government, healthcare, technology and other industries. The margin of error for this survey is +/-2.977%

IRONSCALES

IRONSCALES is a best-in-class email security company focused on fighting back against today's modern phishing attacks. Our self-learning, AI-driven platform continuously detects and remediates advanced threats like Business Email Compromise (BEC), credential harvesting, Account Takeover (ATO) and more. Our powerfully simple email security solution is fast to deploy, easy to manage and keeps our customers safe. Founded in Tel Aviv, Israel in 2014 by alumni of the Israel Defense Force's elite Intelligence Technology unit. IRONSCALES is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. To see additional findings from the IRONSCALES survey, please visit [url pending].