Government Business Council **Flash Poll**

Underwritten by DLT A TECH DATA COMPANY VERITAS

States Under Siege

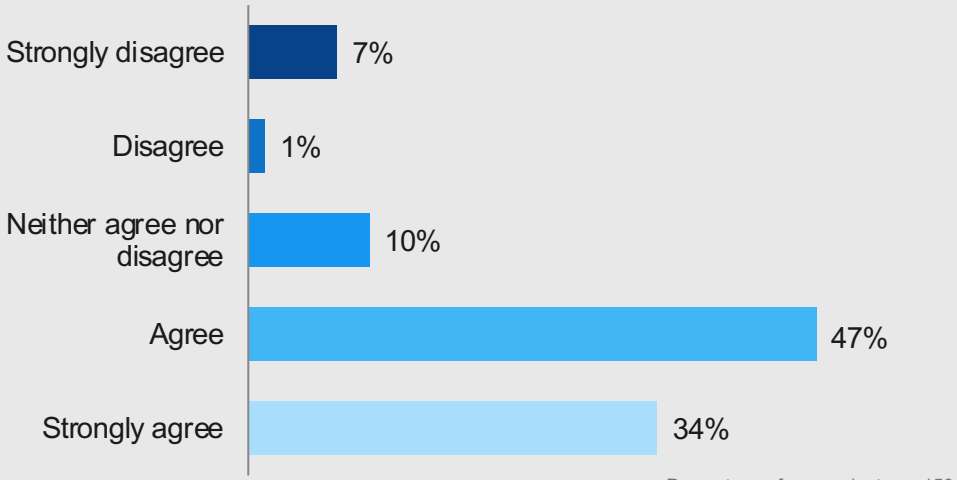
A Flash Poll on Ransomware in State and Local Government

Introduction

In 2019, 43 states reported that they suffered a total of 162 ransomware attacks, severing essential lines of service and undermining trust in the government's protection of sensitive citizen data.[1] A new poll by Government Business Council (GBC) suggests that State and Local government organizations have stepped up their ransomware defense, with many respondents citing confidence in their organization's capabilities.

81% say that their organization takes proactive steps against ransomware

"My organization is proactive in taking steps to reduce ransomware risk (e.g., instructing employees to avoid phishing emails.)"



Percentage of respondents, n=150
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

- **Only 8%** say that their organization is not proactive in preventing ransomware attacks.

Did you know…

Fraud schemes have been discovered involving actors taking advantage of the CARES Act. Hackers using emails with stimulus-related subject lines are gaining access to personal information and launching ransomware attacks.[2]

Insight from DLT and Veritas

Veritas and DLT Solutions help organizations harness the power of their information by shifting the focus from infrastructure to information. Veritas storage and resiliency solutions run on mission critical applications to manage and protect applications and information.

While there has been much improvement and awareness around ransomware in recent years, a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy includes both preventive measures for avoiding ransomware attacks and a plan for how to handle the attacks that can't avoided.

The risk of ransomware still relies heavily on the end users to follow proper protocol. As hackers have become more creative in their approach, it is essential to have a backup and recovery strategy that protects your organization's data and systems against data loss and disasters. Backing up your organization's infrastructure ensures that your business is always up and running, no matter what.

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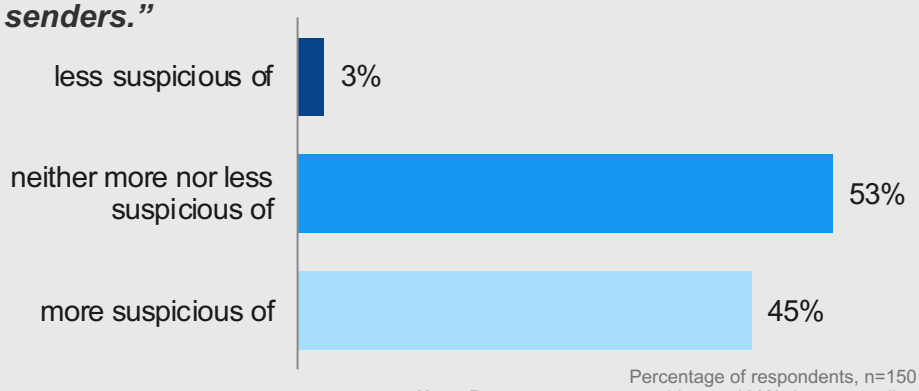
45% are more suspicious of possible phishing emails since work became remote

"Since a majority of my workforce moved to remote work, I have become _____ emails from unknown senders."



Percentage of respondents, n=150
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

- **However, 53%** say their level of suspicion has not changed since maximal telework began.

Did you know…

There have been at least 11 recorded ransomware attacks on state and local networks since the beginning of the pandemic.[1]

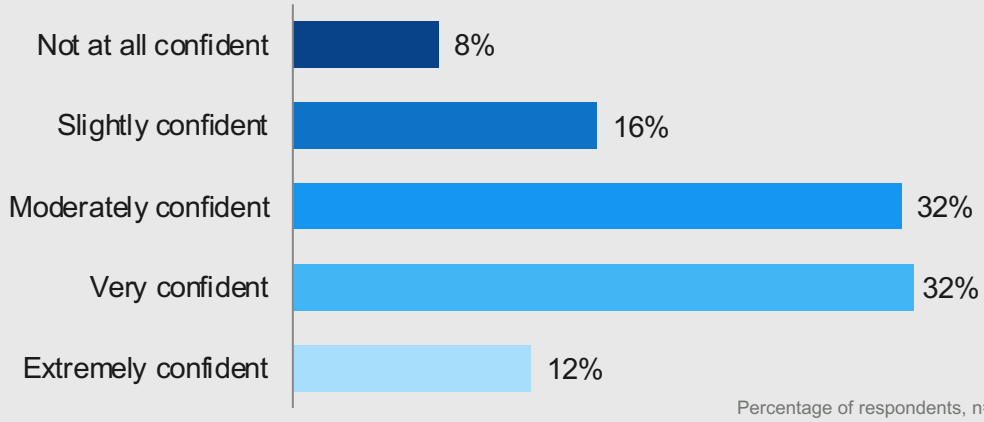
Nearly a quarter are not even moderately confident that their organization can restore data quickly after a ransomware attack

- **44%** express high confidence in their organization's data recovery capabilities, revealing that more than half could greatly improve.

"Having a good strategy will not make you immune from a cyberattack but having a good strategy will help you recover."

Deborah Blyth, Colorado CISO, Federal CIO, June 24, 2020[3]

How confident are you that your organization could restore its data within a couple of hours if it were to suffer a ransomware attack?



Percentage of respondents, n=145
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Methodology

GBC fielded a 3-question poll on mobile device security to a random sample of 150 state and local government employees in June 2020.

Sources

1. StateScoop: "Ransomware Attacks Map." June 24, 2020. https://statescoop.com/ransomware-map/
2. HealthITSecurity: "Feds Issue Joint Alert on COVID-19 Cares Act Payment Fraud Scams." May 21, 2020. https://healthitsecurity.com/news/feds-issue-joint-alert-on-covid-19-cares-act-payment-fraud-scams
3. StateScoop: "Pandemic telework broadened the target area for ransomware attacks, state officials say." June 24, 2020. https://statescoop.com/pandemic-telework-broadened-ransomware-attacks/

About Government Business Council
As Government Executive Media Group's research division, Government Business Council (GBC) is dedicated to advancing the business of government through analysis, insight, and analytical independence. An extension of *Government Executive*'s 40 years of exemplary editorial standards and commitment to the highest ethical values, GBC studies influential decision makers from across government to produce intelligence-based research and analysis.

About DLT
DLT Solutions is the premier government solutions aggregator that specializes in understanding the IT needs of the federal, state, local and education, and helps simplify the process of doing business in the public sector.

About Veritas:
Veritas Technologies is a global leader in data protection and availability. The Veritas Enterprise Data Services Platform automates the protection and orchestrates the recovery of data everywhere it lives, ensures 24/7 availability of business-critical applications, and provides enterprises with the insights they need to comply with evolving data regulations.