

# Vulnerability Remediation & Management for Life Sciences

### Vulnerability Remediation & Management - A high Priority for Life Sciences

Cybersecurity investments have been focused on tools and technology to support vulnerability identification, while remediation of an ever-increasing number of identified vulnerabilities has lagged. Challenges exist in managing the growing complexity of a large number servers, endpoints and applications.

## Why are Life Sciences a Target?

The life sciences industry has been moving towards increased digitalization, with more and more information available digitally. In 2021, the pharmaceuticals sector reported the third highest average cost of a data breach among all industries, behind healthcare and financial services.

#### **Patient Data**

Medical identity theft can be committed using the personal health information of clinical trial participants, including medical histories, test findings, and biometric data.

The number of patient records impacted had nearly **tripled** in just one year, jumping **from 5.5 million breached records in 2017 to about 15 million in 2018.** 

#### **Intellectual Property**

Theft of intellectual property, including drug formulations and related papers, as a result of cyber attacks, might jeopardize years of expensive research.

In December 2020, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) announced that it had been subject to a cyber-attack. During the breach, **some documents relating to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine had been unlawfully accessed**.

#### Ransomware

Operations can be held hostage for a ransom disrupting research, manufacturing, supply chain and Sales activities leading to loss of revenue and reputation.

In 2017, a malware caused **\$870m** worth of damage to Merck.\* It disrupted production of vaccines and lost potential sales of \$410Mn.

Sources: https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/features/pharma-cyber-attacks/ https://www2.deloitte.com/br/en/pages/life-sciences-and-healthcare/articles/ciberseguranca-setor-life-science-health-care.html

IT organizations are spread thin, with only **38 percent** of organizations stating their security teams were sufficiently staffed to meet their security management needs.

Unpatched vulnerabilities remain the most prominent attack vector used by ransomware groups

Source: CSW, Cyware, and Ivanti Ransomware Spotlight Year End 2021 Report



33% of all data breaches stemmed from unpatched vulnerabilities



In 2022 it took an average of 207 days to identify the breach and 70 days to contain the breach. The 277-day average in 2022 means that if a breach occurred on January 1, it would take until October 4 of that year to identify and contain the breach.

\*Sources: https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/features/pharma-cyber-attacks/

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