



COMPROMISED DATA CENTRE AND CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE

CyTrex Global Solutions Case Study



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COMPROMISED DATA CENTRE & CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE



CyTrex Global Solutions Case Study

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AGENDA

- **Incident Overview:** Introduction to the breach, explaining the key background information.
- **Key Events Timeline:** Chronological breakdown of the critical moments in the incident.
- **Task Assignments:** Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the response teams.
- **Policy and Governance Failures:** Identify gaps in current policies and how these contributed to the breach.
- **Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs):** Understanding how the attackers penetrated the systems.
- **CERT-IN Breach Notification and Regulatory Implications:** Legal and regulatory aspects surrounding the breach.
- **NIST 800-61 Incident Response Lifecycle:** A framework for managing and improving the response to such incidents.
- **Conclusion and Recommendations:** Key findings and suggested steps to prevent similar breaches.



INCIDENT OVERVIEW

- **Company:** CyTrex Global Solutions
- **Industry:** IT Services & Software Development
- **Location:** Global, with headquarters in the US and cloud services hosted in the EU
- **Incident Date:** October 12, 2024
- **Discovery Date:** October 14, 2024



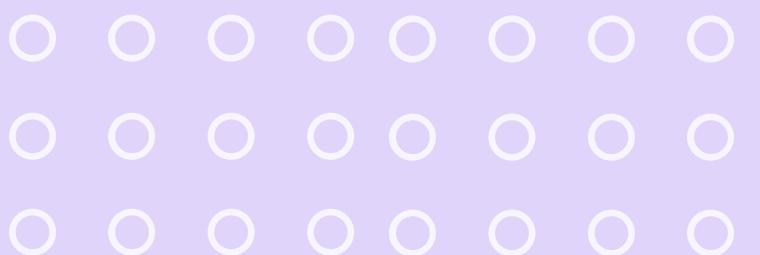
INCIDENT STORY



- **Detection:** CyTrex's Security Operations Centre (soc) noticed unusual outbound traffic and irregular access patterns.
- **Vulnerability Exploited:** Attackers exploited an unpatched firewall vulnerability (CVE-2024-XXXX).
- **Impact:**
 - Privilege escalation allowed attackers to gain unauthorized access to cloud services.
 - Exfiltration of sensitive customer data, including financial and personal information.
 - Deployment of ransomware on cloud-hosted virtual machines, demanding a cryptocurrency ransom.
 - Disruption of healthcare client services, impacting essential operations.

KEY EVENTS TIMELINE

- **Oct 10:** Firewall misconfiguration exposed a known vulnerability.
- **Oct 12:** Attackers exploited the vulnerability and escalated privileges within the data centre.
- **Oct 13:** Attackers moved laterally, compromising backup systems and encrypting critical data.
- **Oct 14:** SOC detected unusual network traffic and initiated the incident response protocol.
- **Oct 15:** Ransomware demand received, requesting 100 Bitcoin.





IDENTIFY POLICY / GOVERNANCE FAILURES

- **Ineffective Patch Management:** A failure to regularly update systems left critical vulnerabilities unpatched.
- **Insufficient Access Controls:** The absence of granular controls allowed attackers to escalate privileges once inside.
- **Lack of Secure Backups:** Backup systems were not isolated or encrypted, making them vulnerable to compromise.
- **Untested Incident Response Playbooks:** The lack of rehearsal of incident response plans led to delayed actions.
- **Inadequate Cloud Security Monitoring:** The absence of proactive monitoring allowed attackers to exploit cloud resources.

IDENTIFY TTPs

- **Initial Access (T1078)**: Exploitation of an unpatched firewall vulnerability.
- **Privilege Escalation (T1068)**: Attackers gained higher-level access once inside.
- **Lateral Movement (T1021)**: Attackers spread to other systems, including backup systems.
- **Exfiltration (T1041)**: Sensitive data was moved out of the network.
- **Impact (T1486)**: Ransomware encrypted systems, locking critical files.
- **Recommendations:**
 - Automate Patch Management to keep systems up-to-date.
 - Implement Least Privilege Access controls to minimize the damage potential.
 - Use Network Segmentation to isolate sensitive systems.
 - Deploy DLP (Data Loss Prevention) tools to monitor and protect sensitive data.
 - Use EDR (Endpoint Detection and Response) tools for better visibility and quicker responses.



CERT-IN BREACH NOTIFICATION AND OTHER REGULATORY IMPLICATIONS

- **CERT-In Guidelines:**

- Notify CERT-In within 6 hours of breach detection.
- Provide specific incident details and actions taken.
- Maintain ongoing updates to regulators until the breach is resolved.

- **GDPR Considerations:**

- Notify affected individuals within 72 hours if sensitive data (e.g., financial data) is involved.
- Penalties could include fines and reputational damage.

- **Penalties:**

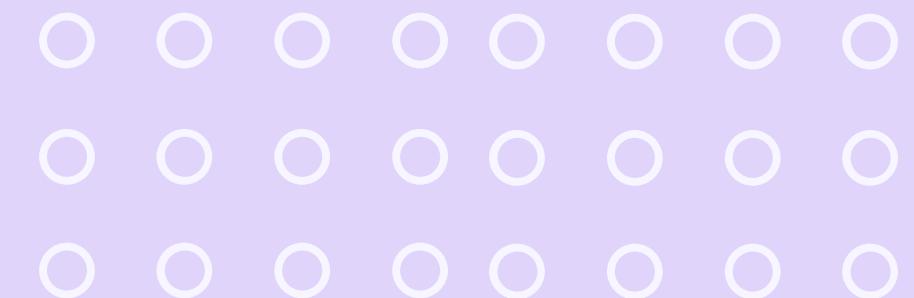
- Regulatory fines for non-compliance.
- Contractual penalties from affected clients.
- Long-term reputational damage to the company's credibility.





NIST 800-61 INCIDENT RESPONSE LIFECYCLE

- **Preparation:** Create and test incident response playbooks, conduct drills.
- **Detection and Analysis:** Improve threat detection systems and train SOC staff.
- **Containment:** Implement containment strategies for both immediate and long-term response.
- **Eradication:** Remove any malicious artifacts and restore clean backups.
- **Recovery:** Verify the integrity of restored systems and begin normal operations.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Summary:**

- A recap of the gaps in policy, identified TTPs, and regulatory considerations.

- **Actionable Insights:**

- Staff Training: Regular training to ensure personnel know how to respond to incidents.
- Continuous Monitoring: Enhance SOC capabilities to detect and prevent attacks.
- Incident Response Testing: Regularly test response playbooks to ensure quick and effective action in future incidents.





THANK YOU