

# The Boulevard of Broken Buckets

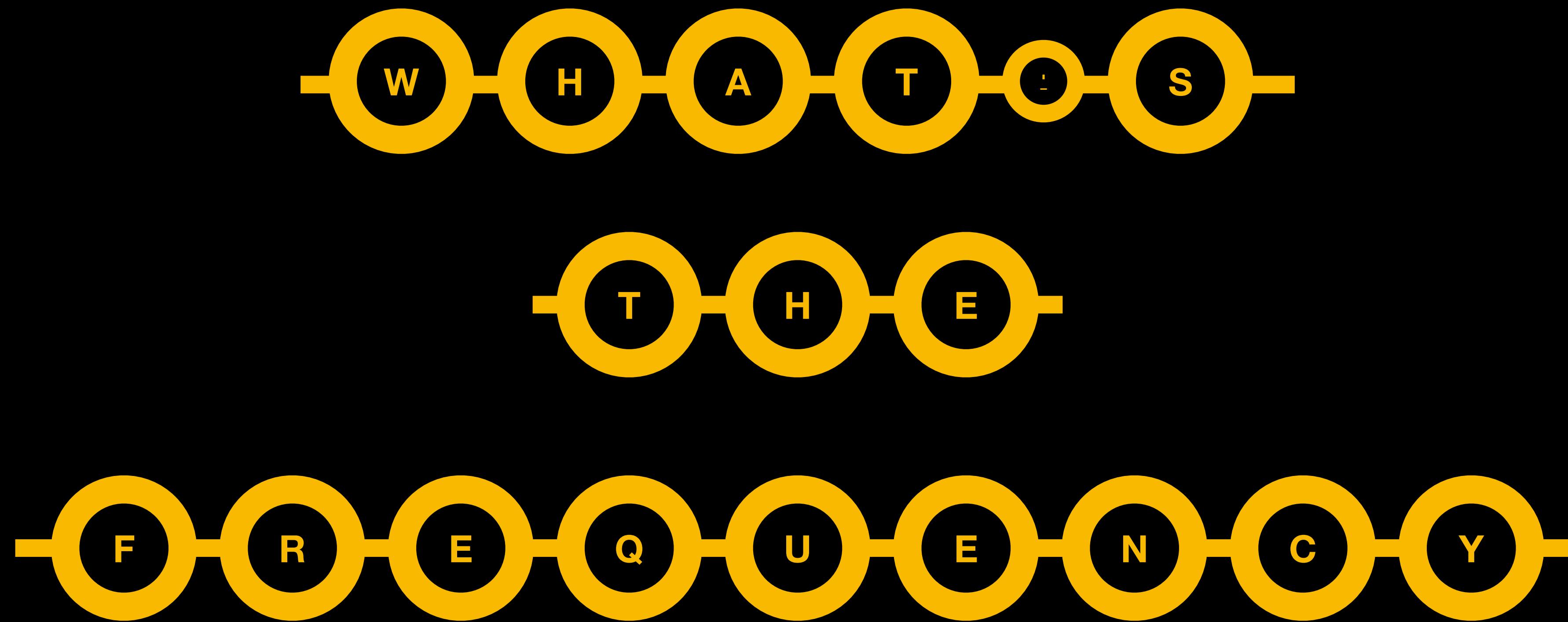
Misconfigured Cloud Storage & Wide Open Databases Hosted in  
Cloud Providers Errantly Exposed Billions of Records in 2020



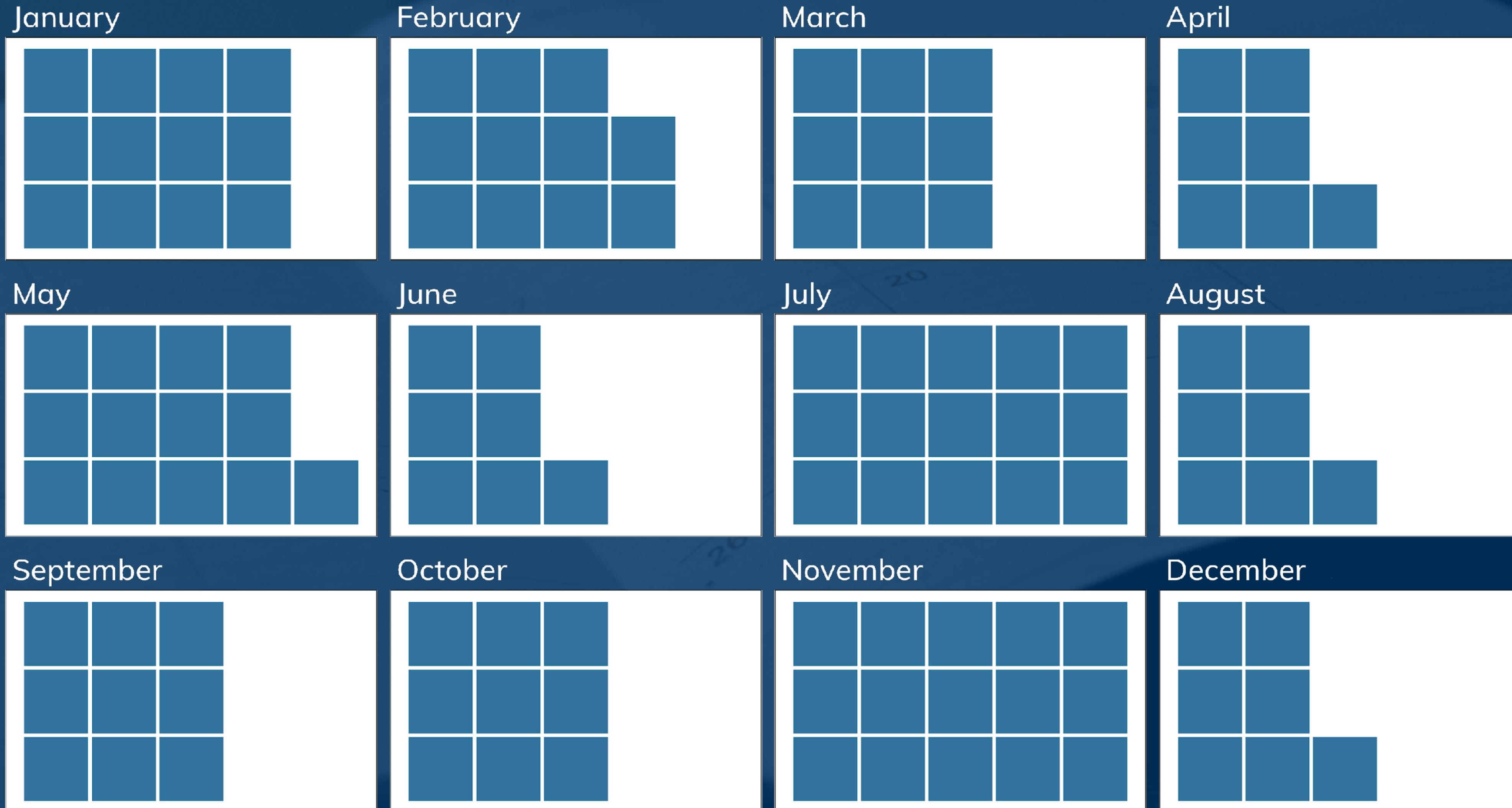
IT BEGAN AS A MISTAKE

# 2021 Cloud Misconfigurations Report Redux

- 121 Publicly Reported Leaks & Breaches Disclosed in 2020
- Median exposure: *10 Million Records*
- No Industry or Record Type Left Unscathed



# Misconfiguration Incident/Breach Cadence



[Home](#)[Filter Buckets](#)[Search Files](#)[Docs / API](#)[Top Keywords](#)

## Results for "example"

1 - 20 of 100000 results

Premium users see 792320 more results. [More info here.](#)

### Ignored Buckets

None [\(?\)](#)

#	Bucket	Filename	Container	Size	Last Modified
1	[REDACTED]blob.core.windows.net	media/Default/Training Documents/CSR/C...CO Certificate of Exemption Example.pdf	media	60.17kB	12-02-2018 20:02:53
2	[REDACTED]blob.core.windows.net	media/Default/Training Documents/CSR/C...Example of Customer Purchase Order.docx	media	1.01MB	18-10-2018 22:55:13
3	[REDACTED]blob.core.windows.net	media/Default/Training Documents/CSR/C.../Example of Customer Purchase Order.pdf	media	483.89kB	18-10-2018 22:55:14
4	[REDACTED]core.windows.net	media/19FL2019/Exhibitor Service Kit/COI Example - Copy.jpg	media	145.77kB	05-08-2019 21:35:55
5	[REDACTED]ob.core.windows.net	files/archive/drupal6_test/sites/all/m...help_example/help/help_example.help.ini	files	303.00B	04-01-2020 03:28:50
6	[REDACTED]ob.core.windows.net	files/archive/drupal6_test/sites/all/m...ced_help/help_example/help_example.info	files	369.00B	04-01-2020 00:29:07
7	[REDACTED]ob.core.windows.net	files/archive/drupal6_test/sites/all/m...d_help/help_example/help_example.module	files	826.00B	04-01-2020 03:53:42
8	[REDACTED]ob.core.windows.net	files/archive/drupal6_test/sites/all/m...example/translations/help_example.de.po	files	1.41kB	04-01-2020 02:08:40

## Buckets (11) [Info](#)

[Copy ARN](#)[Empty](#)[Delete](#)[Create bucket](#)

Buckets are containers for data stored in S3. [Learn more](#)

 Find buckets by name

< 1 >



Name	AWS Region	Access	Creation date
a-very-super-secure-bucket	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Bucket and objects not public	September 28, 2021, 15:01:12 (UTC-04:00)
ad	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	December 5, 2016, 22:42:03 (UTC-05:00)
av	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	April 20, 2018, 21:41:22 (UTC-04:00)
cs	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	March 10, 2019, 07:16:05 (UTC-04:00)
do	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	<span style="color: red;">⚠️ Public</span>	December 21, 2013, 22:55:59 (UTC-05:00)
hr	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	June 26, 2020, 11:11:57 (UTC-04:00)
is.	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	March 10, 2019, 06:39:02 (UTC-04:00)
is.	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	July 13, 2018, 08:43:49 (UTC-04:00)
is.	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	February 28, 2020, 15:48:25 (UTC-05:00)
podcast.datadrivensecurity.info	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	<span style="color: red;">⚠️ Public</span>	December 22, 2013, 12:50:40 (UTC-05:00)
public-r-data	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	<span style="color: red;">⚠️ Public</span>	July 10, 2016, 11:26:23 (UTC-04:00)

# Create bucket Info

Buckets are containers for data stored in S3. [Learn more](#)

## General configuration

### Bucket name

myawsbucket

Bucket name must be unique and must not contain spaces.

### AWS Region

US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1

### Copy settings from existing bucket - optional

Only the bucket settings in the following configuration are copied:

[Choose bucket](#)

### Block Public Access settings for this bucket

Public access is granted to buckets and objects through access control lists (ACLs), bucket policies, access point policies, or all. In order to ensure that public access to this bucket and its objects is blocked, turn on Block all public access. These settings apply only to this bucket and its access points. AWS recommends that you turn on Block all public access, but before applying any of these settings, ensure that your applications will work correctly without public access. If you require some level of public access to this bucket or objects within, you can customize the individual settings below to suit your specific storage use cases. [Learn more](#)

#### **Block all public access**

Turning this setting on is the same as turning on all four settings below. Each of the following settings are independent of one another.

##### **Block public access to buckets and objects granted through *new* access control lists (ACLs)**

S3 will block public access permissions applied to newly added buckets or objects, and prevent the creation of new public access ACLs for existing buckets and objects. This setting doesn't change any existing permissions that allow public access to S3 resources using ACLs.

##### **Block public access to buckets and objects granted through *any* access control lists (ACLs)**

S3 will ignore all ACLs that grant public access to buckets and objects.

##### **Block public access to buckets and objects granted through *new* public bucket or access point policies**

S3 will block new bucket and access point policies that grant public access to buckets and objects. This setting doesn't change any existing policies that allow public access to S3 resources.

##### **Block public and cross-account access to buckets and objects through *any* public bucket or access point policies**

S3 will ignore public and cross-account access for buckets or access points with policies that grant public access to buckets and objects.

Shodan | Maps | Images | Monitor | Developer | More...

**SHODAN** Explore Downloads Pricing ↗ **elasticsearch** Search

TOTAL RESULTS **7,413**

TOP COUNTRIES

Country	Count
United States	2,051
Hong Kong	1,358
China	1,232
Germany	554
Netherlands	375
<a href="#">More...</a>	

TOP PORTS

Port	Count
9200	3,303
80	2,580
443	404
8081	283
8080	125
<a href="#">More...</a>	

TOP ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	Count
Google LLC	578
Aliyun Computing Co., LTD	500
DXTL HK	476
Amazon Technologies Inc.	397
Microsoft Corporation	356
<a href="#">More...</a>	

**New Service:** Keep track of what you have connected to the Internet. Check out [Shodan Monitor](#)

2021-08-31T15:43:52.741102

**elasticsearch-dev** SSL Certificate

**Issued By:**  
Russian Federation, Moscow

**Issued To:**  
elasticsearch-dev

**Supported SSL Versions:**  
TLSv1, TLSv1.1, TLSv1.2, TLSv1.3

2021-08-31T15:43:44.690464

**EGIHosting** 401 Authorization Required ↗

HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized  
Server: nginx  
Date: Tue, 31 Aug 2021 15:17:19 GMT  
Content-Type: text/html  
Content-Length: 590  
Connection: keep-alive  
WWW-Authenticate: Basic realm="Protected Elasticsearch"

2021-08-31T15:43:44.603486

**African Oxygen Limited** database

HTTP/1.1 200 OK  
Warning: 299 Elasticsearch-7.13.3-5d21bea28dbe89ecclf66311ebdec9dc3aa7d64 "Elasticsearch built-in security features are not enabled. Without a

2021-08-31T15:40:14.459181

**180-177-172-163.instances.sc** w.cloud

HTTP/1.1 200 OK  
Warning: 299 Elasticsearch-7.13.2-4d960a0733be83dd2543ca018aa4ddc42e956800 "Elasticsearch built-in security features are not enabled. Without a

2021-08-31T15:39:22.355024

**es-cluster-hofmann1.rackspace.com** SSL Certificate

HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized

## Docs

[Elasticsearch Guide \[7.15\]](#) » [Set up Elasticsearch](#) » [Configuring Elasticsearch](#) » **Networking**

[« Node](#)

[Node query cache settings »](#)

# Networking



Each Elasticsearch node has two different network interfaces. Clients send requests to Elasticsearch's REST APIs using its [HTTP interface](#), but nodes communicate with other nodes using the [transport interface](#). The transport interface is also used for communication with [remote clusters](#).

You can configure both of these interfaces at the same time using the `network.*` settings. If you have a more complicated network, you might need to configure the interfaces independently using the `http.*` and `transport.*` settings. Where possible, use the `network.*` settings that apply to both interfaces to simplify your configuration and reduce duplication.

By default Elasticsearch binds only to `localhost` which means it cannot be accessed remotely. This configuration is sufficient for a local development cluster made of one or more nodes all running on the same host. To form a cluster across multiple hosts, or which is accessible to remote clients, you must adjust some [network settings](#) such as `network.host`.



### Be careful with the network configuration!

**WARNING**

Never expose an unprotected node to the public internet. If you do, you are permitting anyone in the world to download, modify, or delete any of the data in your cluster.

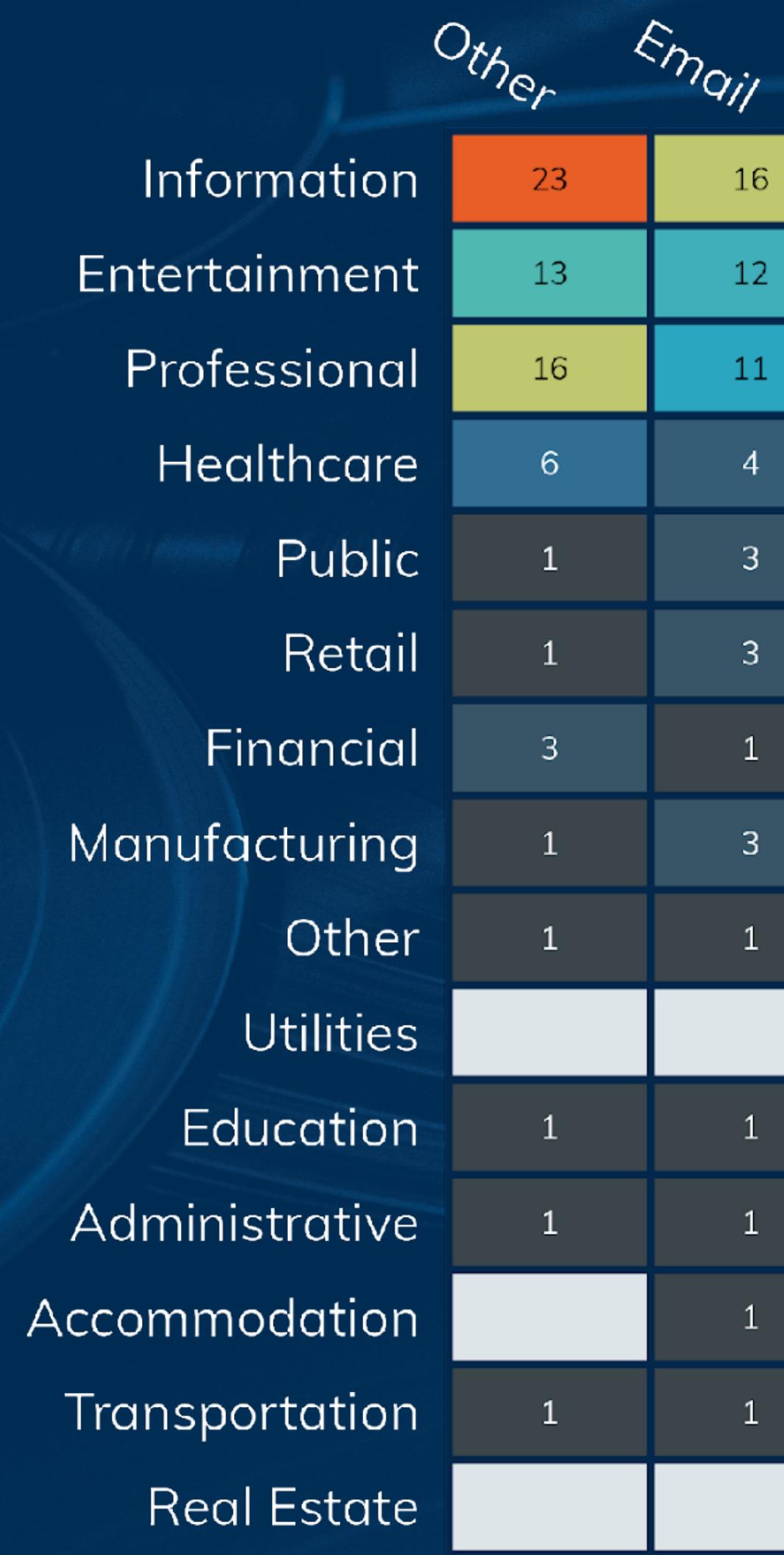
Configuring Elasticsearch to bind to a non-local address will [convert some warnings into fatal exceptions](#). If a node refuses to start after configuring its network settings then you must address the logged exceptions before proceeding.



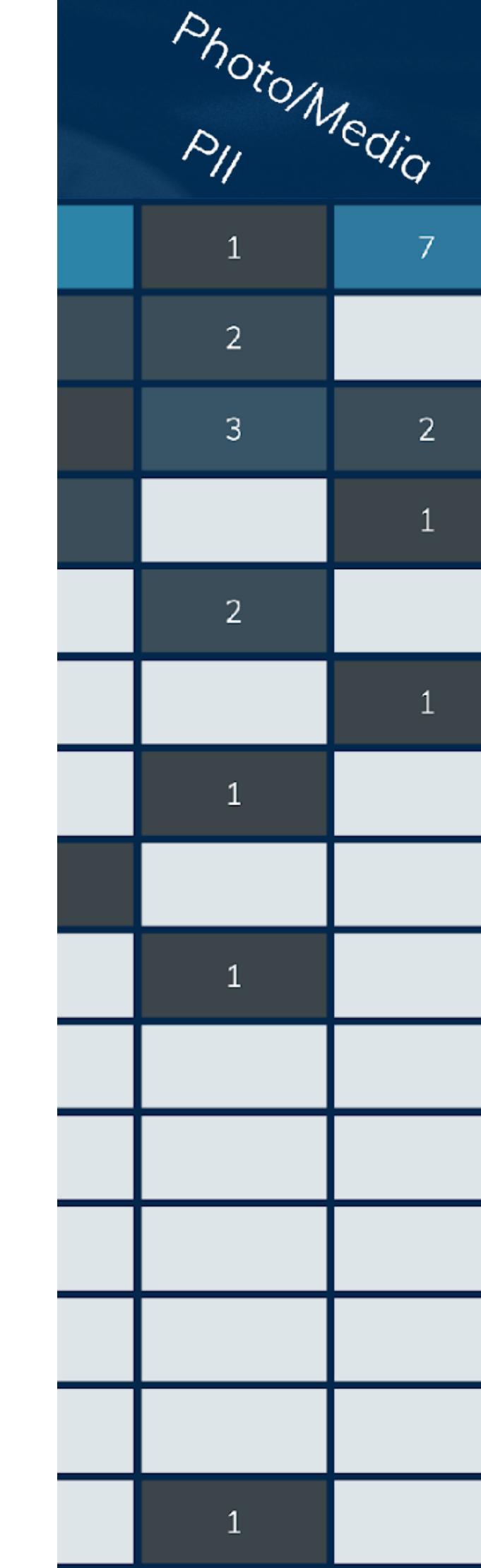
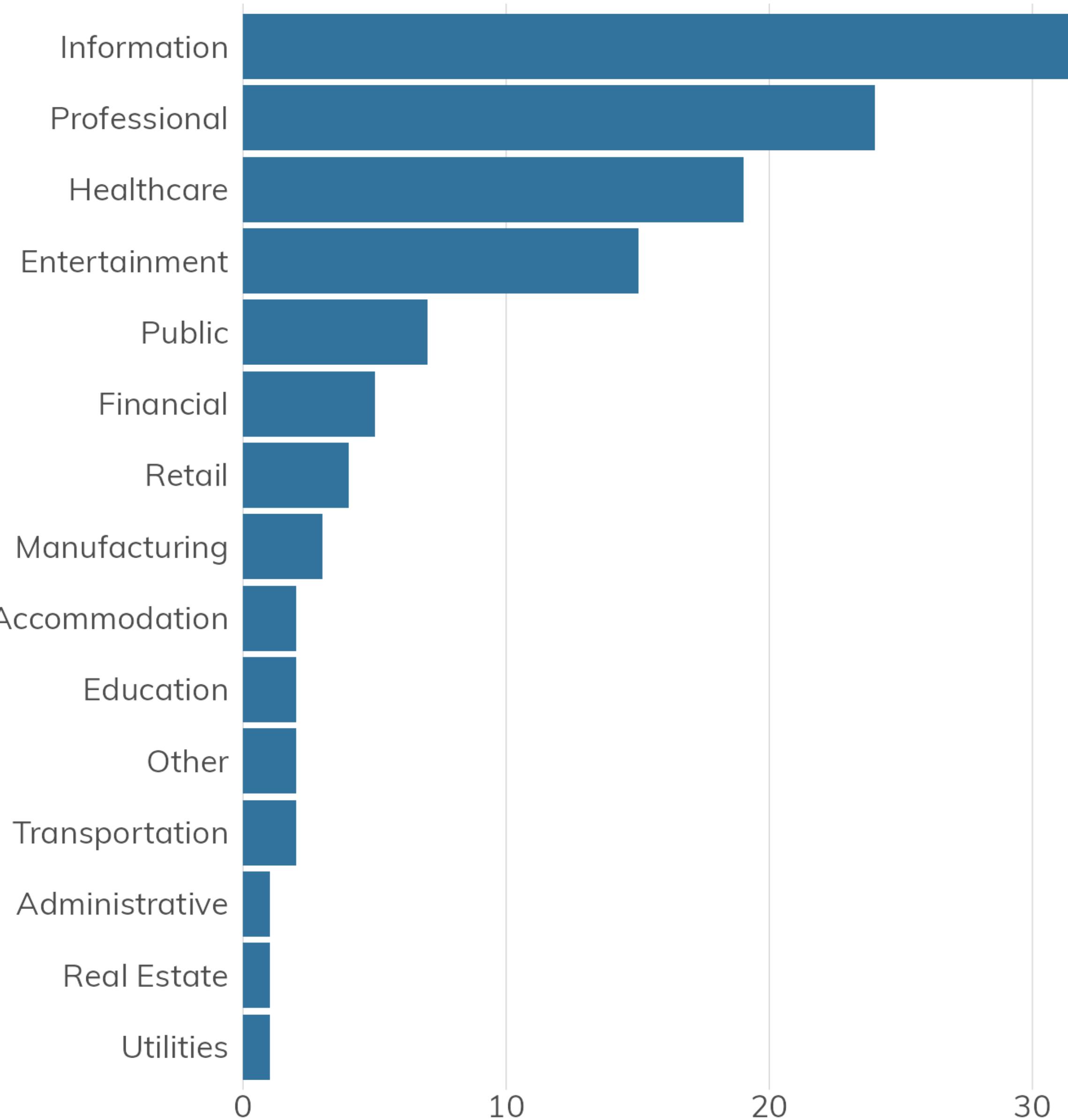
# Record Loss by Type & Industry

	Other	Email	Name	Address	Identifier	Phone	Financial	Birthday	Credentials	Health	IP Address	Location	Photo/Media	PII
Information	23	16	10	7	6	9	6	3	8	5	5	8	1	7
Entertainment	13	12	10	8	4	6	3	6	7	1	4	2	2	
Professional	16	11	8	4	6	5	1	3	5	1	2	1	3	2
Healthcare	6	4	9	8	5	2	5	2	1	11	1	2		1
Public	1	3	4	4	4	2		3	1				2	
Retail	1	3	4	4	2	2	1	1		1	1			1
Financial	3	1	1	1	1		3	2					1	
Manufacturing	1	3	1	1		1		1	1		1	1		
Other	1	1	1	2	1		1				1		1	
Utilities			1	1	1	1	1	1		1				
Education	1	1	2		1	1		1						
Administrative	1	1	1	1		1	1							
Accommodation		1	2		2		1							
Transportation	1	1			1		1							
Real Estate					1							1		

# Record L



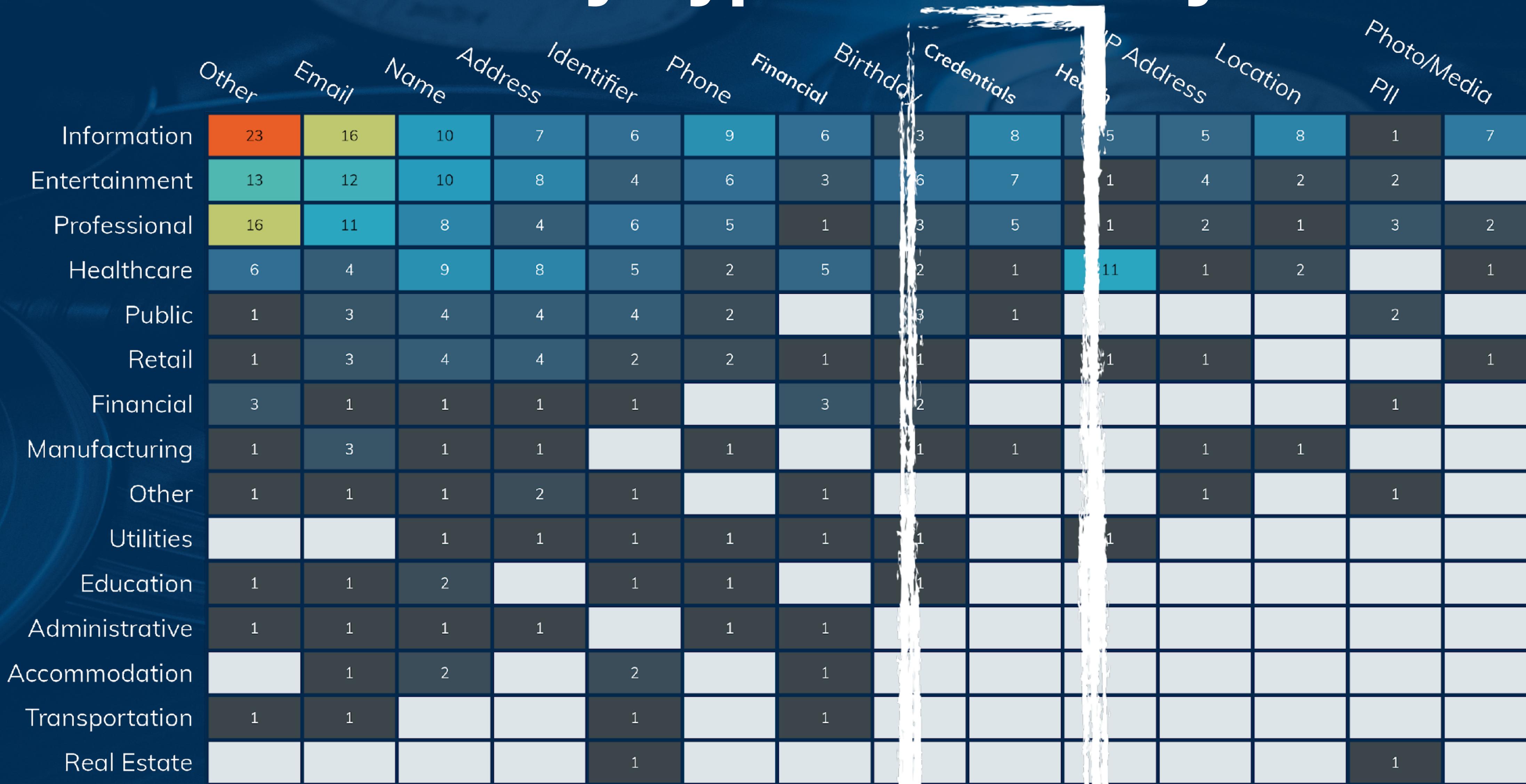
# Industry Breakdown



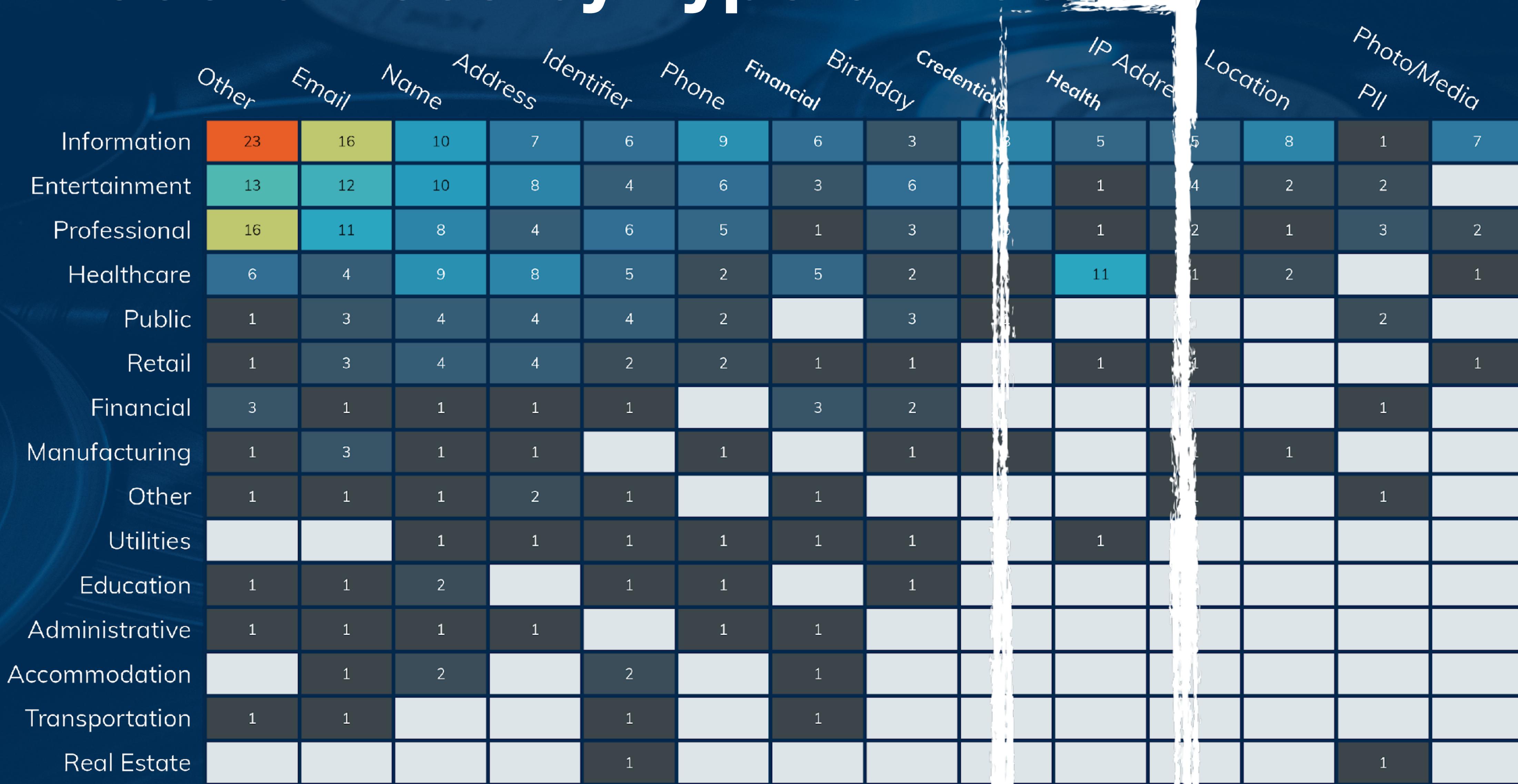
# Record Loss by Type & Industry

	Other	Email	Name	Address	Identifier	Phone	Financial	Birthday	Credentials	Health	IP Address	Location	Photo/Media	PII
Information	23	16	10	7	6	9	6	3	8	5	5	8	1	7
Entertainment	13	12	10	8	4	6	3	6	7	1	4	2	2	
Professional	16	11	8	4	6	5	1	3	5	1	2	1	3	2
Healthcare	6	4	9	8	5	2	5	2	1	11	1	2		1
Public	1	2	3	4	4	2		3	1				2	
Retail	1	3	4	4	2	2	1	1		1	1			1
Financial	3	1	1	1	1		3	2					1	
Manufacturing	1	3	1	1		1		1	1		1	1		
Other	1	1	1	2	1		1				1		1	
Utilities			1	1	1	1	1	1		1				
Education	1	1	2		1	1		1						
Administrative	1	1	1	1		1	1							
Accommodation		1	2		2		1							
Transportation	1	1			1		1							
Real Estate					1							1		

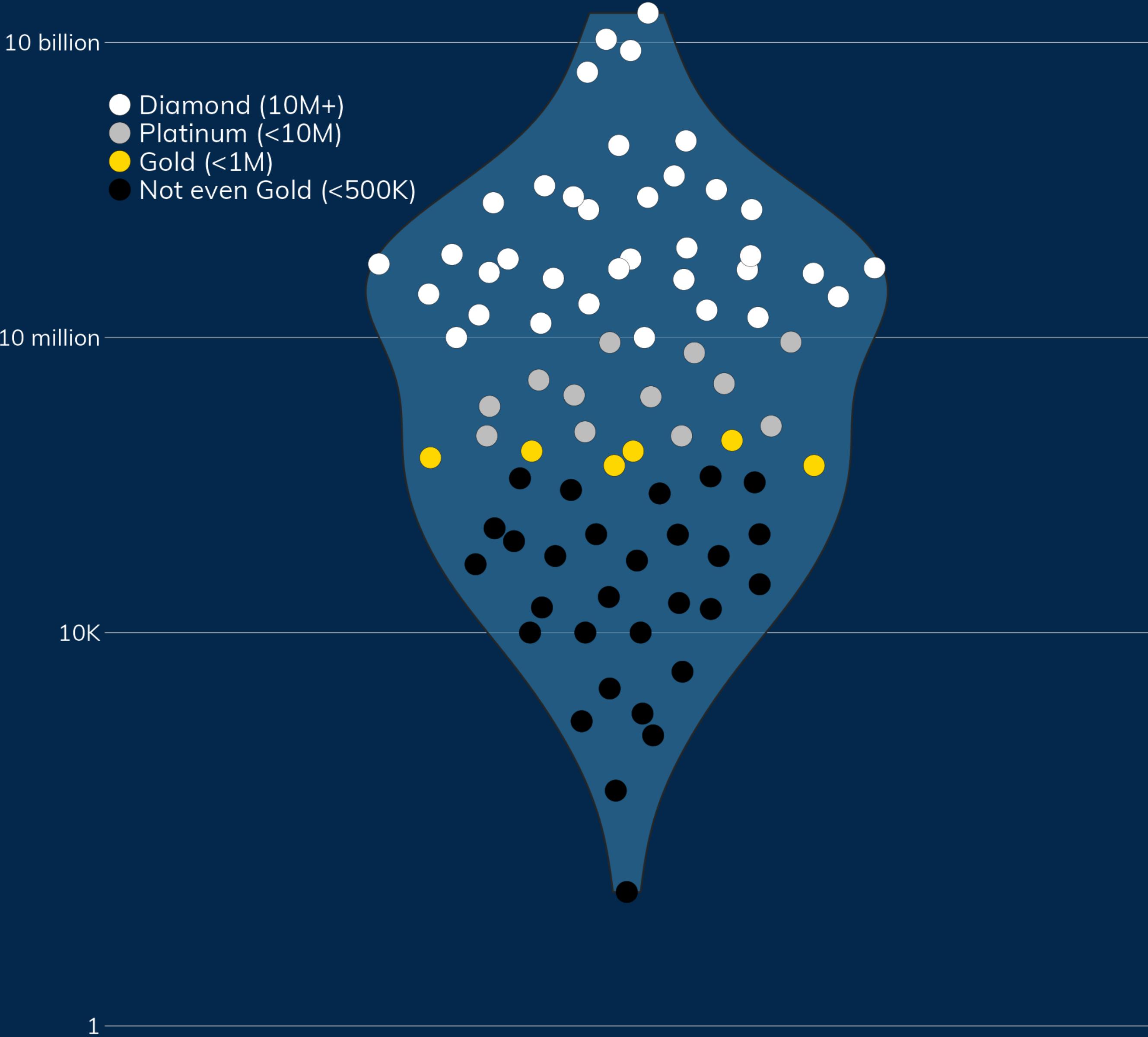
# Record Loss by Type & Industry



# Record Loss by Type & Industry



# Chart Toppers



# The Usual Suspects



AWS S3  
30 (25%) Incidents



Elasticsearch  
24 (20%) Incidents



Google Cloud  
3 (~3%) Incidents

Azure Blob  
2 (~2%) Incidents

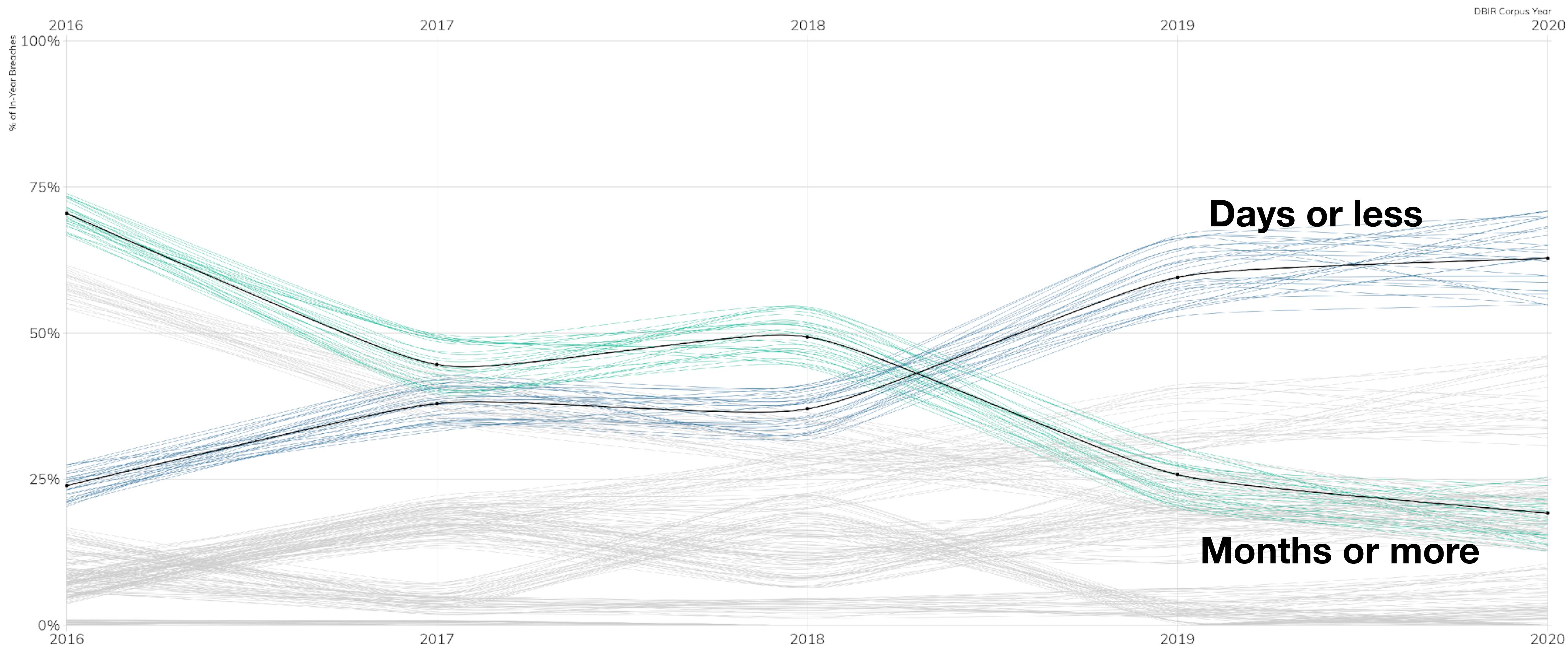


# Record Time

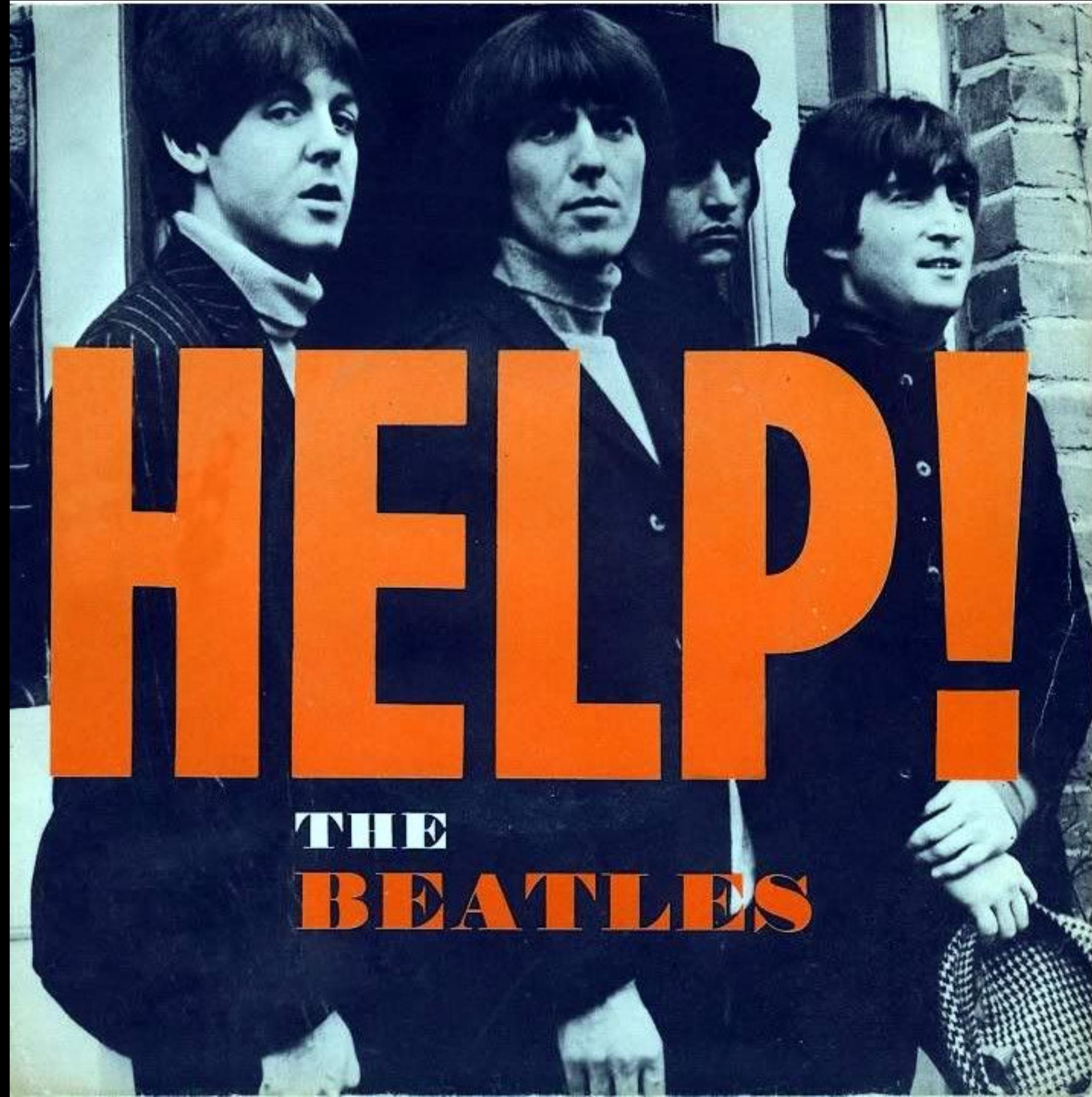


# Discovery Over Time In Breaches

Depending on the type of attack, defenders have gotten much better at detecting evidence of compromise since 2016.



Source: Verizon 2021 Data Breach Investigations Report



# How To Avoid Being A Misconfiguration Headline



## Know What You Are Exposing

# How To Avoid Being A Misconfiguration Headline

Buckets (11) [Info](#)

Buckets are containers for data stored in S3. [Learn more](#)

Find buckets by name

C Copy ARN Empty Delete Create bucket

Name	AWS Region	Access	Creation date
a-very-super-secure-bucket	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Bucket and objects not public	September 28, 2021, 15:01:12 (UTC-04:00)
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av	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	April 20, 2018, 21:41:22 (UTC-04:00)
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do	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	⚠️ Public	December 21, 2013, 22:55:59 (UTC-05:00)
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is.	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	March 10, 2019, 06:39:02 (UTC-04:00)
is.	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	Objects can be public	July 13, 2018, 08:43:49 (UTC-04:00)
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podcast.datadrivensecurity.info	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	⚠️ Public	December 22, 2013, 12:50:40 (UTC-05:00)
public-r-data	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	⚠️ Public	July 10, 2016, 11:26:23 (UTC-04:00)

# How To Avoid Being A Misconfiguration Headline

**Use Safe & Resilient  
Configuration Settings**

# How To Avoid Being A Misconfiguration Headline

## Create bucket Info

Buckets are containers for data stored in S3. [Learn more](#)

### General configuration

#### Bucket name

myawsbucket

Bucket name must be unique and must not contain spaces or uppercase letters.

#### AWS Region

US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1

#### Copy settings from existing bucket - optional

Only the bucket settings in the following configuration are copied.

[Choose bucket](#)

#### Block Public Access settings for this bucket

Public access is granted to buckets and objects through access control lists (ACLs), bucket policies, access point policies, or all. In order to ensure that public access to this bucket and its objects is blocked, turn on Block all public access. These settings apply only to this bucket and its access points. AWS recommends that you turn on Block all public access, but before applying any of these settings, ensure that your applications will work correctly without public access. If you require some level of public access to this bucket or objects within, you can customize the individual settings below to suit your specific storage use cases. [Learn more](#)

##### Block all public access

Turning this setting on is the same as turning on all four settings below. Each of the following settings are independent of one another.

##### Block public access to buckets and objects granted through new access control lists (ACLs)

S3 will block public access permissions applied to newly added buckets or objects, and prevent the creation of new public access ACLs for existing buckets and objects. This setting doesn't change any existing permissions that allow public access to S3 resources using ACLs.

##### Block public access to buckets and objects granted through any access control lists (ACLs)

S3 will ignore all ACLs that grant public access to buckets and objects.

##### Block public access to buckets and objects granted through new public bucket or access point policies

S3 will block new bucket and access point policies that grant public access to buckets and objects. This setting doesn't change any existing policies that allow public access to S3 resources.

##### Block public and cross-account access to buckets and objects through any public bucket or access point policies

S3 will ignore public and cross-account access for buckets or access points with policies that grant public access to buckets and objects.

# How To Avoid Being A Misconfiguration Headline

**Regularly Monitor/Check  
Those Settings**

# How To Avoid Being A Misconfiguration Headline

The screenshot shows the GitHub README.md page for the Scout Suite project. At the top, there's a large red cloud icon containing the text "SCOUTSUITE" and a small tree logo above it. Below the icon, there are several status indicators: a green "CI Workflow passing" badge, a red "codecov 24%" badge, a green "pypi package 5.10.2" badge, a green "downloads 3.6k/month" badge, a blue "Docker Hub rossja/ncc-scoutsuite" badge, and a blue "docker pulls 77k" badge. The main content area starts with a "Description" section, which reads: "Scout Suite is an open source multi-cloud security-auditing tool, which enables security posture assessment of cloud environments. Using the APIs exposed by cloud providers, Scout Suite gathers configuration data for manual inspection and highlights risk areas. Rather than going through dozens of pages on the web consoles, Scout Suite presents a clear view of the attack surface automatically." Below this, another paragraph states: "Scout Suite was designed by security consultants/auditors. It is meant to provide a point-in-time security-oriented view of the cloud account it was run in. Once the data has been gathered, all usage may be performed offline." At the bottom, a note says: "The project team can be contacted at [scoutsuite@nccgroup.com](mailto:scoutsuite@nccgroup.com)".

<https://github.com/nccgroup/ScoutSuite>

# How To Avoid Being A Misconfiguration Headline



Use And Rely  
On Automation

# How To Avoid Being A Misconfiguration Headline



## Preventing Misconfigurations

Misconfiguration of cloud services is the number one reason for security and compliance risk. When using cloud services (IaaS, PaaS, Serverless, FaaS, and CaaS), security is a shared responsibility between you and the cloud service provider.

**Instant Scan Results**  
PO-PCLOUD-Easy-V-Download-Sign-Templates-Nature  
There were 2 Resources that failed.

**Scan Results - Summary**  
2 Total Resources Found  
2 Resources failed at least one insight.  
0 Resources passed all insights.  
0 Resources had no insights.

**Scan Results - Details**  
All | Edited | Warnings | Passed | Skipped | 2

Severity	Description
Critical	Database Instance Not Encrypted
Warning	Access List Excludes IP 0.0.0.0/0 Port 22 From Any Group
Info	Amazon Lambda service with public access and no VPC endpoint or interface endpoint configured to restrict access to the world (0.0.0.0/0)
Critical	Access List Excludes 0.0.0.0/0 To World Security Group
Info	Amazon Aurora service with public access and no VPC endpoint or interface endpoint configured to restrict access to the world (0.0.0.0/0)
Critical	Access List Excludes Windows EIP for World Security Group
Info	Amazon Access Log Streamer service with public access and no VPC endpoint or interface endpoint configured to restrict access to the world (0.0.0.0/0)

You, as the customer of the cloud service provider (CSP), are responsible for securing how you use cloud services, including properly configuring identity and access management (IAM), storage and compute settings, threat analysis and defense, and the security of the application and data processed and stored in the cloud.

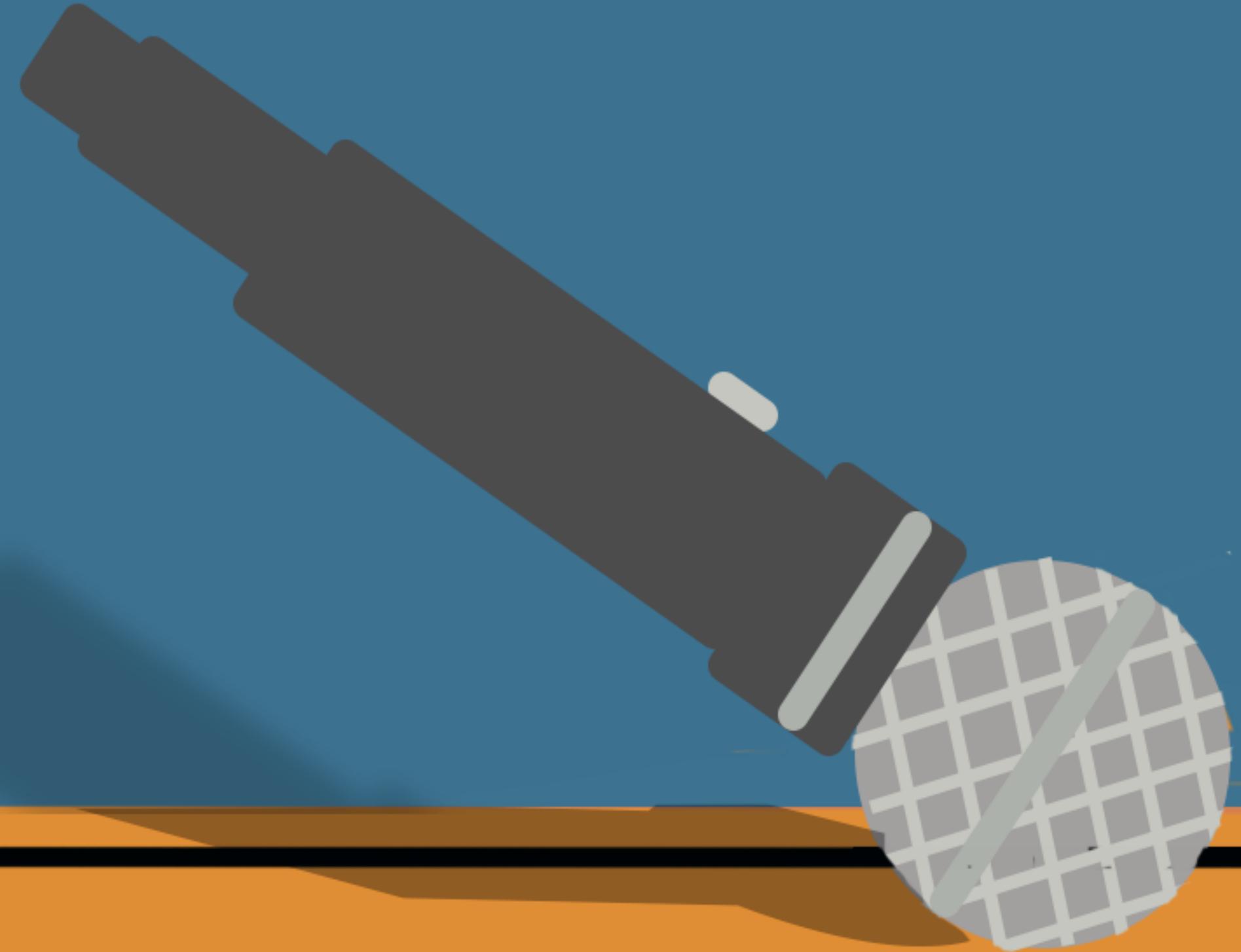
Therefore, secure cloud configuration must be a dynamic and continuous process. At a base level, there is the configuration of the cloud infrastructure (e.g., blocking SSH ports, and IAM). Next, there is the configuration of the CSP security controls (e.g., enabling log monitoring and encryption). And, finally, SecOps teams must address changes to settings (e.g., detecting and acting on a threat actor turning off logging to cover their tracks).

With InsightCloudSec, all changes—no matter how they are implemented (via console, provisioning tools, or programmatically)—are detected through a two-tiered monitoring approach that includes API polling and event-driven harvesting for faster detection of changes and automation in real-time. This allows you to identify misconfigurations and resolve them with automated, real-time remediation.

With InsightCloudSec, you can accelerate innovation through the use of cloud and container services while minimizing the risk of misconfigurations.



research@rapid7.com



👀 <https://www.rapid7.com/c/cloud-misconfigurations-2021/>

⬇️ <https://github.com/rapid7/data/tree/master/2021-cloud-misconfigurations>