



Professional Services “fifth” most attacked industry in 2020

Data Theft

The sensitive data professional service firms hold on their clients, led threat actors to believe firms would pay ransom to prevent the leak of sensitive data.

Server Access

In the professional services sector remote access trojans were the third-most common attack against professional services.

Ransom Demand

The professional services sector came in second only to manufacturing with the highest percentage out of all industries.



Source:
[IBM X-Force Threat Intelligence Index](#)

Trends we see across the industry

Professional Services Industry

35% of attacks on professional services in 2020 were ransomware attacks—a higher percentage than any other industry

13% of attacks on professional services were data theft and another **13%** were server access

8.7% of all attacks on the top ten industries came from the professional services industry

Why is this industry targeted?

- professional service companies hold sensitive data that threat actors seek.
- professional services organizations are particularly attractive to attackers because of the avenue they provide to additional victims.
- threat actors believe professional services organizations are more likely to pay the ransom.

