

Cybersecurity & Patient Safety: What they don't teach you at medical school



Richard Staynings

Healthcare Security Luminary
Chief Security Strategist, Cylera
Faculty, University of Denver





In Emergency Medicine Triage can be critical

What is Important?

What is Urgent & Critical?



The background of the slide features a photograph of several high-voltage power transmission towers and their associated power lines. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm orange and yellow glow from the low sun on the left side of the frame. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a darker blue at the top. The power lines stretch across the frame, creating a sense of depth and infrastructure.

In National Defense, most countries have identified what is critical to them.

Healthcare is one of 16 national US critical infrastructure sectors.

- Chemical
- Commercial Facilities
- Communications
- Critical Manufacturing
- Dams
- Defense Industrial Base
- Emergency Services
- Energy
- Financial Services
- Food and Agriculture
- Government Facilities
- Healthcare and Public Health
- Information Technology
- Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste
- Transportation
- Water and Wastewater

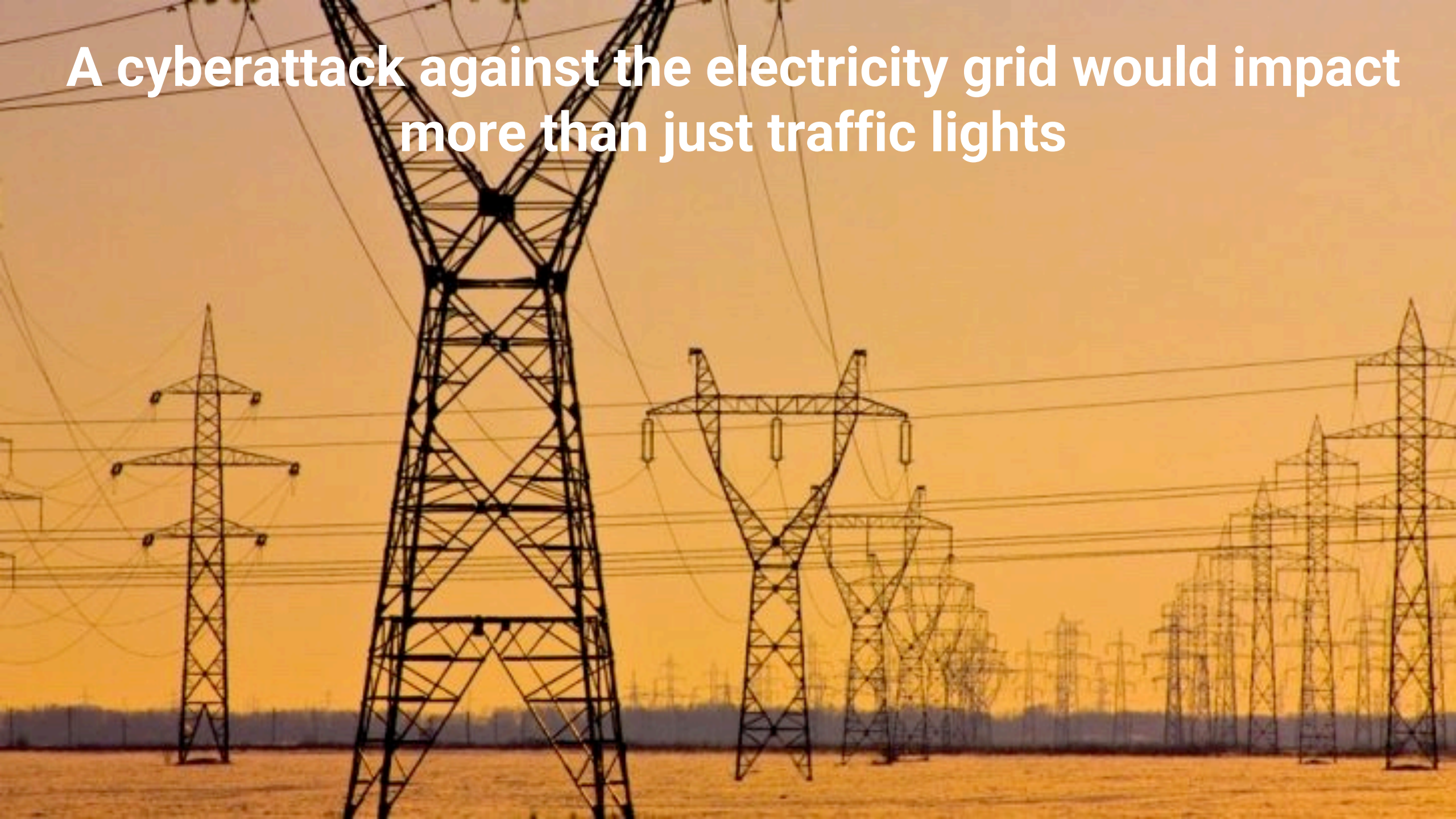
National Critical Infrastructure



Our society is reliant upon these critical sectors



A cyberattack against the electricity grid would impact more than just traffic lights



A cyber attack against just one critical industry could be utterly devastating



**A Public Health crisis
could kill millions**



New York City before sanitation

What happened when the power failed in New Orleans?



This is the abandoned Charity Hospital New Orleans USA. When in August 2005, Hurricane Katrina shut off the power and backup generators ran out of fuel, mold quickly took over, making the hospital unfit to treat patients.



But what if the disaster had been caused by a cyber attack, one that opened all the floodgates to the New Orleans basin?

A cyberattack that overloaded pumping stations?



Cyber-Kinetic attacks against critical infrastructure



**ICS infrastructure is
highly vulnerable**

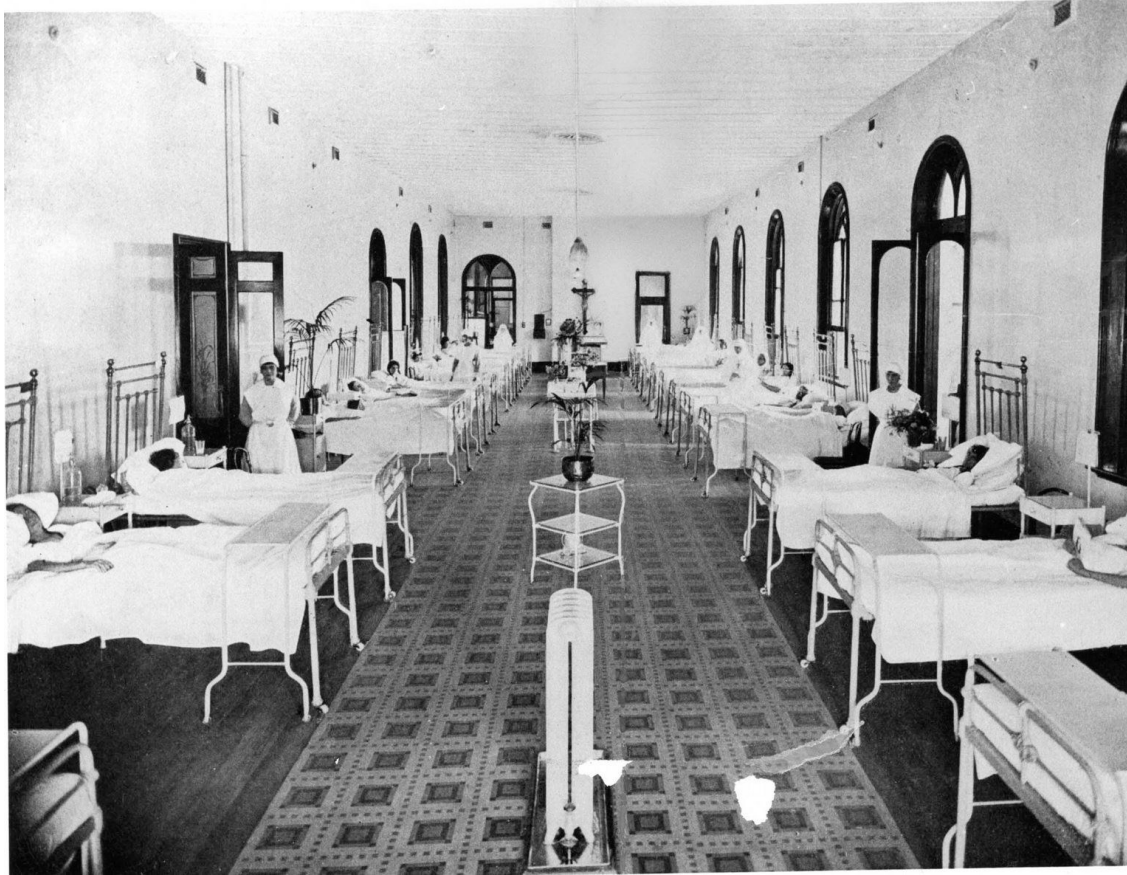
**Russia reportedly GRU blew up
Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyan pipeline in 2008
(by cyber attack)**



Healthcare



Healthcare has been transformed over the past century



Technology has fueled improvements in patient outcomes

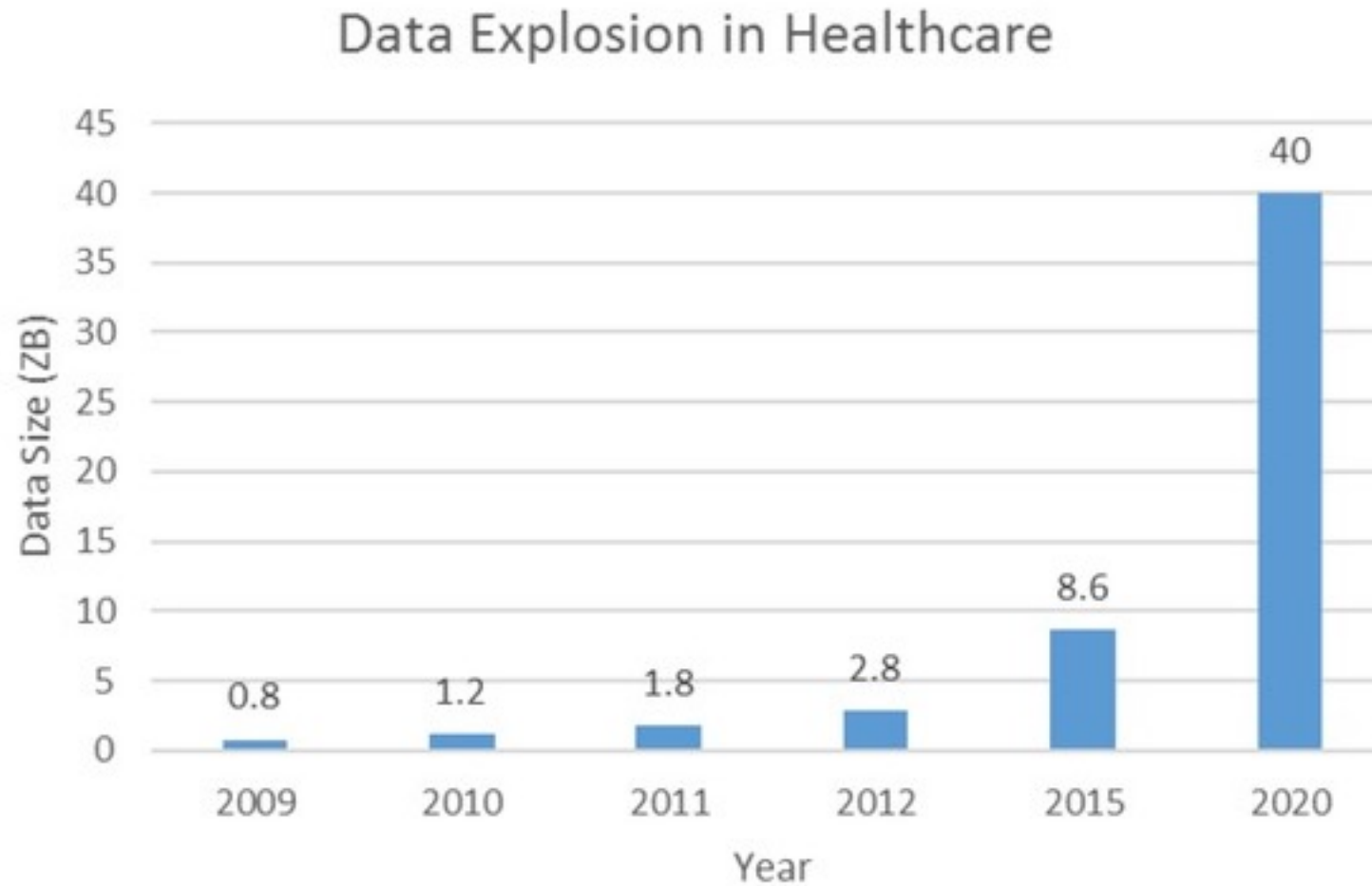
Modern Healthcare has enabled us to improve the human condition, to beat diseases that used to ravage families and communities and to live longer and better than ever before



Polio Patients in Iron Lungs before widespread vaccination



Technology has resulted in an explosion of medical data



1 ZB = 1 billion TB

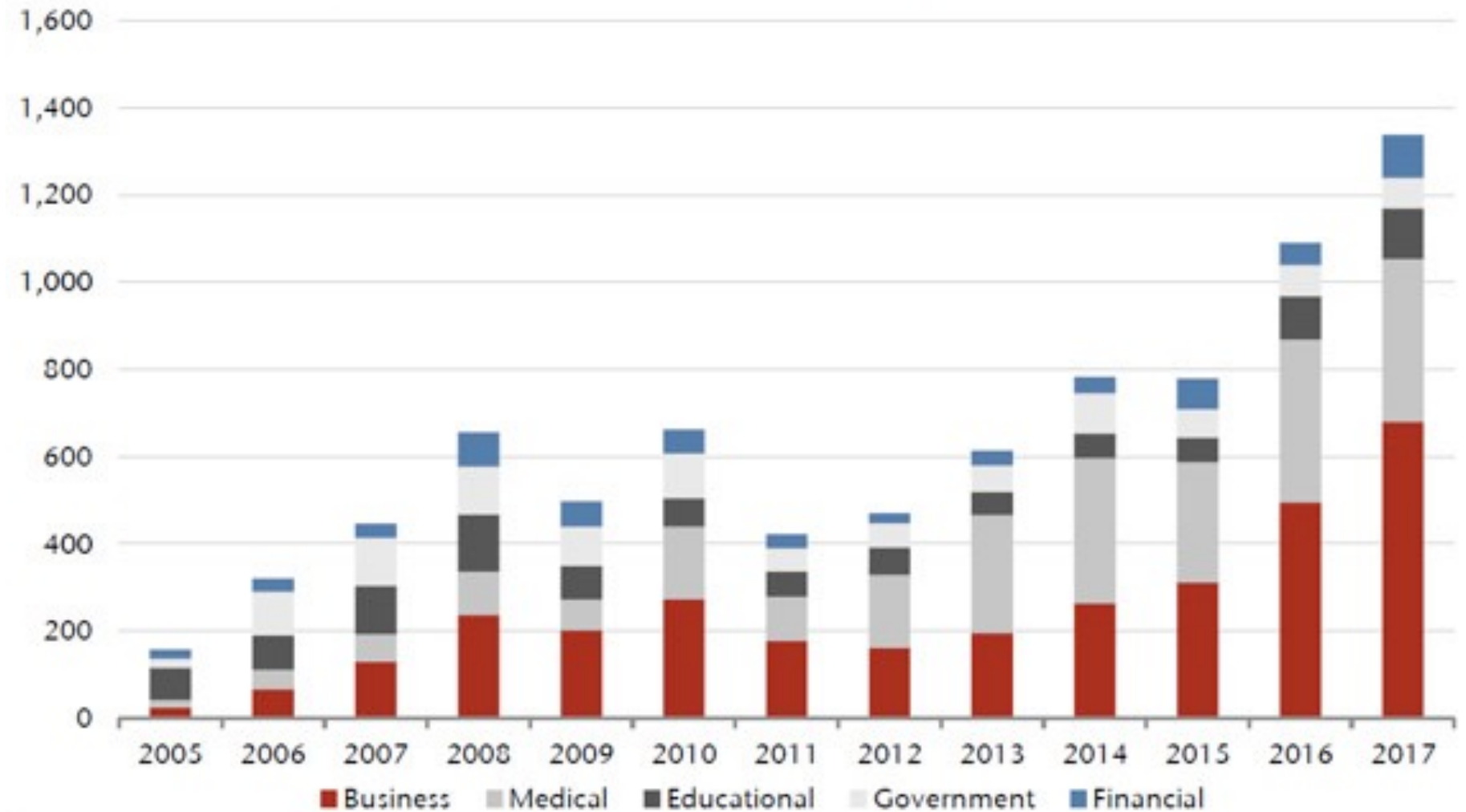
Hong, Big Data in Health Care, Data and Information Management 2 (3), Dec 2018

**But it has also
introduced new risks**



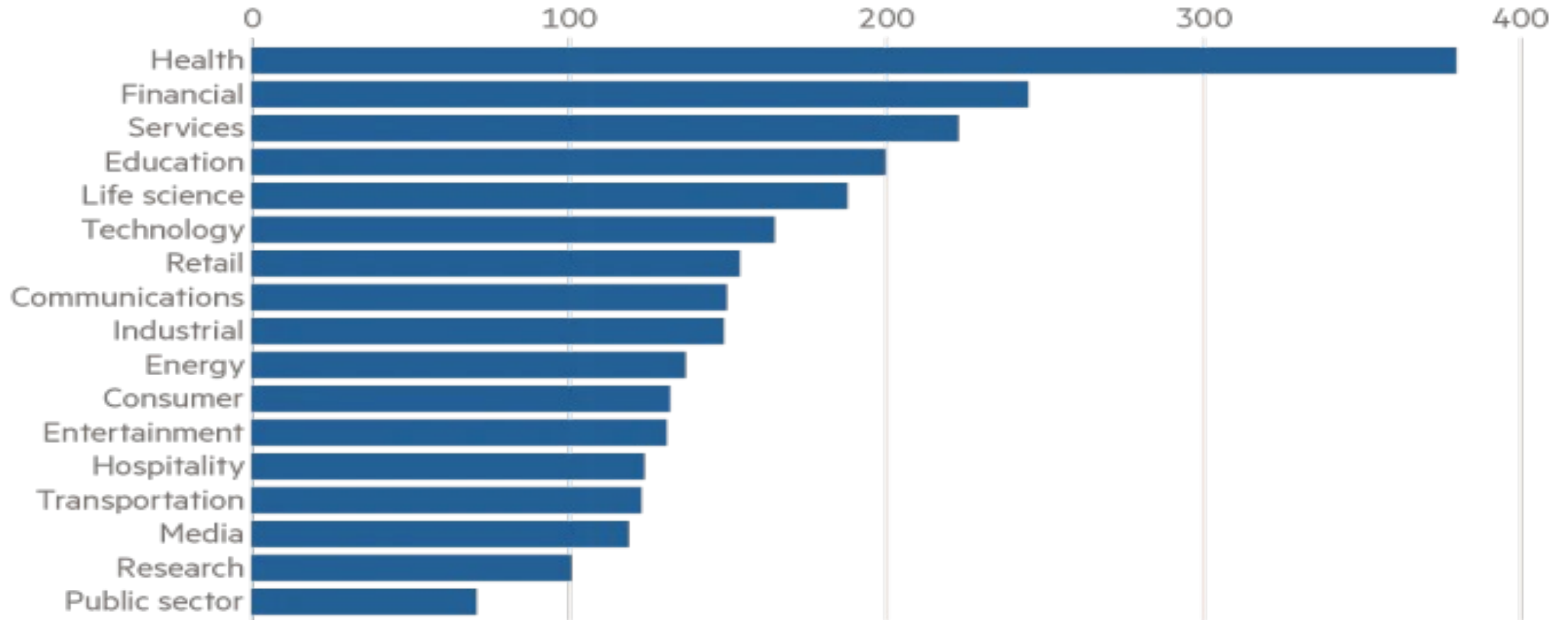
... that our
PHI and PII
maybe
breached

Chart 9: Increasing number of data breaches (by entity)



Source: Jefferies, Identity Theft Resource Centre

...and Cyberattacks against Healthcare are very expensive



Cost of a data breach per capita

Maturity Paradox



Qualitative view of technical debt faced by many Public and Private Sector organisations.

The illustration also gives perspective on how the threat landscape is changing faster than businesses can address the disparity between cyber and digital maturity, which essentially amplifies the risk.

High
Maturity
Low

Threat Landscape

Digital Maturity

Technical Debt

Cyber Maturity

Year



WANNCRY

2017

COVID

2020

2021

WAR

2022

2023

2024





ATTACK SURFACE

CONCEPT, TYPES, TOOLS AND ATTACK
SURFACE REDUCTION STRATEGIES

New Technologies Expand the Attack Surface

A person with a beard and glasses, wearing large headphones, is seated at a desk in a dimly lit room. They are working on a laptop, with their hands on the keyboard. In the background, there are two large monitors. The monitor on the left displays a complex network diagram or code, while the monitor on the right shows a dark, abstract image. The overall atmosphere is focused and technical.

Cybersecurity



Cybersecurity

The CIA Triad

Protecting CIA data

Regulatory focus on
CONFIDENTIALITY

BUT

What about INTEGRITY
and AVAILABILITY?



Integrity Attack

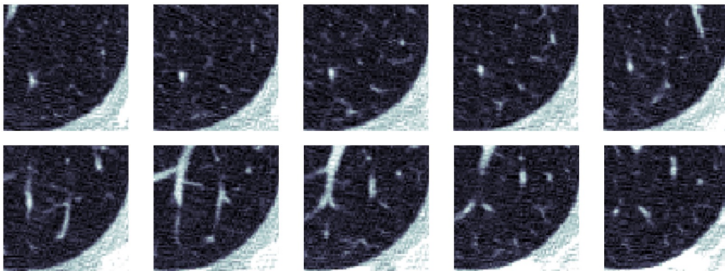
- What if a patient's blood type or list of allergies was changed?
- Or their past medical history?
- Or their surgical instructions?

Attacks proven against Integrity of Medical Data

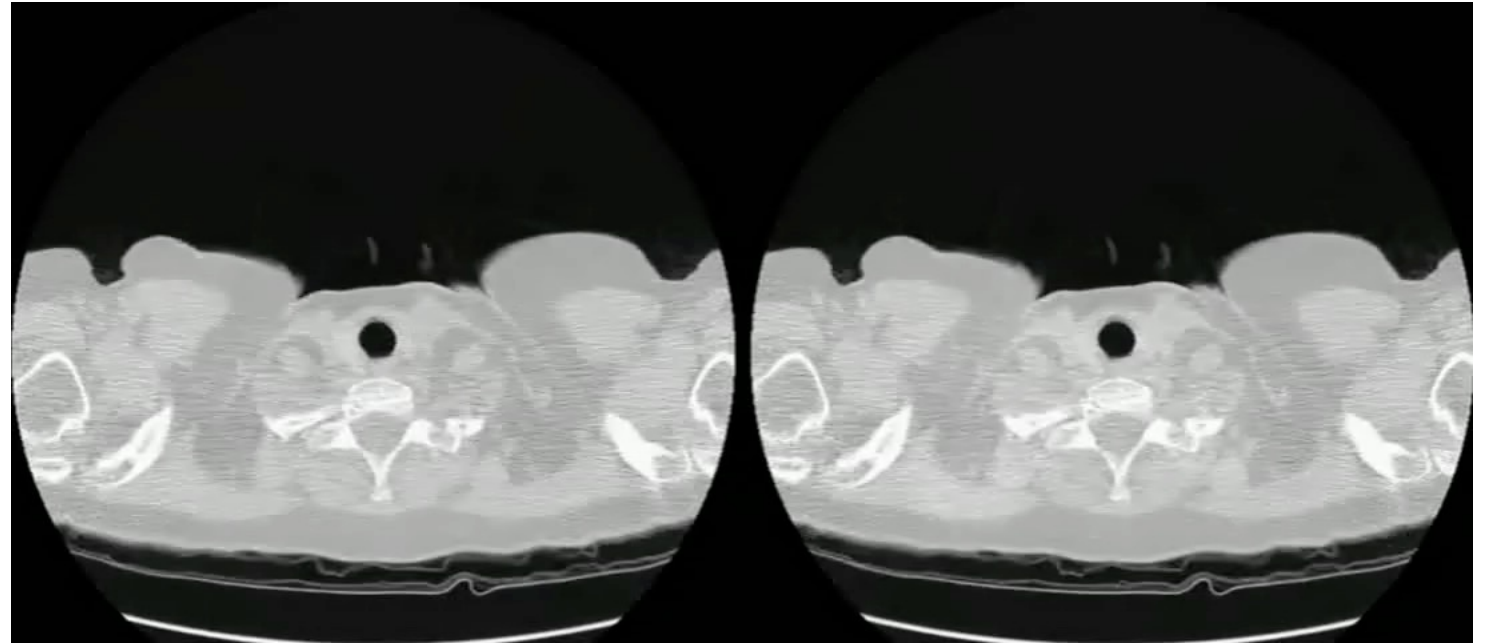
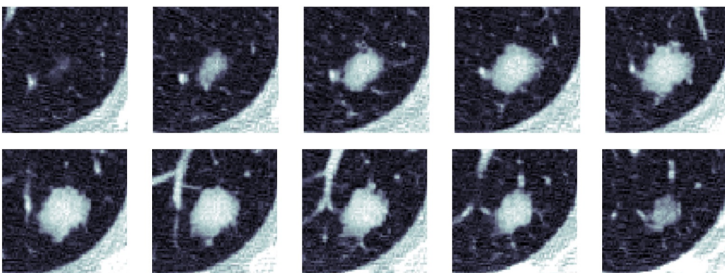
Hacking medical images

- Intercept images on network between scanner and PACS
- Add or subtract nodules on CT images using deep-learning

original
scan



modified
scan



Original

Fake nodules

Radiologists fooled by:

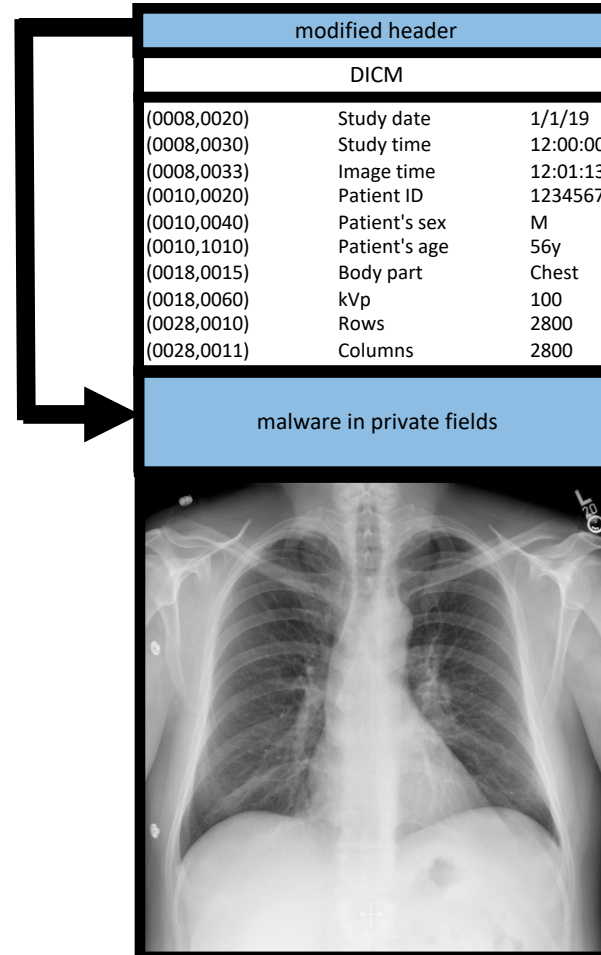
- added fake nodules (99%)
- removed nodules (94%)

Medical data can be modified to contain malware

- Modified DICOM files
 - Header (preamble)
 - used for dual personality files
 - replaced by executable file header
 - Private fields
 - replaced by malware



Picado Ortiz, Apr 2019, labs.cylera.com/2019/04/16/pedicom-medical-malware/



DICOM file

DICOM Flaw Enables Malware to Hide Behind Medical Images

Cylera discovered a flaw in DICOM, a 30-year-old standard used to exchange and store medical images, that would let a hacker insert malicious code into medical device image files.


By Jessica Davis

April 18, 2019 - Cylera security researcher Markel Picado Ortiz recently discovered a vulnerability in the DICOM image format, a 30-year-old standard used to exchange and



Availability Attack

What happens when IT goes down?

Ransomware – and other forms of cyber extortion



North Korean
WannaCry attack
shut down much
of the UK NHS in
2017

WannaCry
affected at least
81 of the 236
trusts across
England - a third
of NHS systems





**WannaCry Ransomware
Costs Britain's NHS
Approximately
\$121M**

6 years later the NHS still has a massive elective surgery backlog

Irish Health System Executive attacked

May 2021



CONTI



Recovery costs for ransomware attack on Ireland's publicly funded healthcare system, is likely to total \$600 million, says Paul Reid, HSE's director general.

**What happens when someone needs to go to hospital,
but the hospital has been hacked
or held to ransom?**



Ransomware attack forces French hospital to transfer patients

By [Sergiu Gatlan](#)

December 5, 2022 03:41 PM 0



The André-Mignot teaching hospital in the suburbs of Paris had to shut down its phone and computer systems because of a ransomware attack that occurred on Saturday evening.


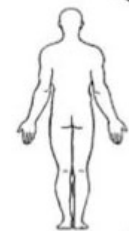
BLEEPINGCOMPUTER



**Digital Health has
turned the industry on
its head.**

**Its totally dependent
on IT and IoT**

Few nurses under 45 can successfully revert to paper charts when tested

INTEGUMENTARY		VITALS		LABS	
		RR _____ O2 _____ T _____	BP _____ HR _____ RR _____ O2 _____ T _____	K _____ CO2 _____ Cr _____ Glu _____	WBC _____ Hgb _____ Hct _____ Plt _____
NEURO		RESP		Hemo	
O2 Sat _____ 1 2 3 4		RA _____ NC/HF Baseline: _____ BiPAP _____ CPAP _____		Rhythm: _____ EF: _____ PM / AICD _____	
Neuro <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		U		Ca+ _____ Mg+ _____ Phos _____	
Incont _____ Bedpan _____ Urinal _____ BSC _____ Bathrm _____		Foley _____ Dialysis _____ Anuria _____ Retention _____		Trop (I) _____ (II) _____ (III) _____	
PAIN		IV		DIET	
_____ / _____ _____ / _____ _____ / _____		_____ / _____ _____ / _____ _____ / _____		Fluid Restriction _____ Order: _____ / NPO Alt. Texture: _____ BG AC & HS Q6	
Notes		Notes		Meds:	
_____		_____		0700 0800 0900 1000 1100 1200 1400	
Notes		Notes		Is&Os:	
_____		_____		_____	



This places us at risk

Risk that if HIT / HIoT systems go down that patient treatment will suffer.

Failure of IT may also lead to patient safety concerns including increases in morbidity and even mortality.



Death by Ransomware

On the evening of 11 September 2020 paramedics in Düsseldorf, Germany, were alerted to an inbound ambulance and the deteriorating condition of a 78-year-old woman suffering from an aortic aneurysm.

Due to a ransomware attack and rapidly failing IT systems, the hospital was unable to accept the patient who was redirected to another facility 32km away in Wuppertal delaying the patient's treatment by an hour. The patient died shortly after arrival in Wuppertal.

German authorities have yet to extradite the Russian suspects.

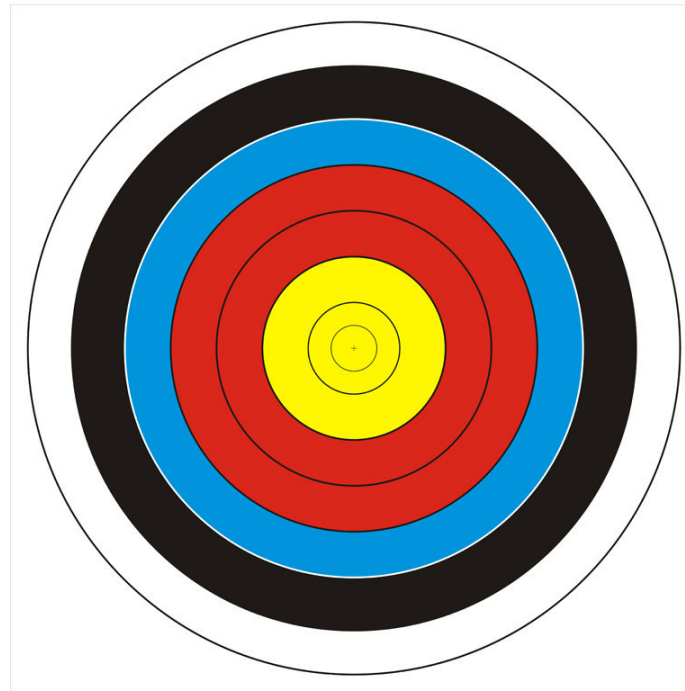


A Hospital Hit by Hackers, a Baby in Distress: The Case of the First Alleged Ransomware Death

A lawsuit says computer outages from a cyberattack led staff to miss troubling signs, resulting in the baby's death, allegations the hospital denies

Healthcare is being targeted

- Reported ransomware events against healthcare nearly doubled in 2020 Q3 (USA Today)
- Healthcare providers are typically more desperate to pay ransom to protect PHI and get their systems back up and running (Check Point)
- Healthcare networks typically require the use of older, unsupported software running on medical devices in particular



- UCSF reportedly paid \$1.14M to recover their encrypted files in 2021
- UHS, one of the largest healthcare providers, suffered a Ryuk ransomware event, typically precipitated by commodity threats Emotet and Trickbot
- Events are not isolated to North America. India reported the second most ransomware attacks in Q3 2020



Between 2 and 3 US hospitals are being attacked by ransomware **EVERY WEEK**

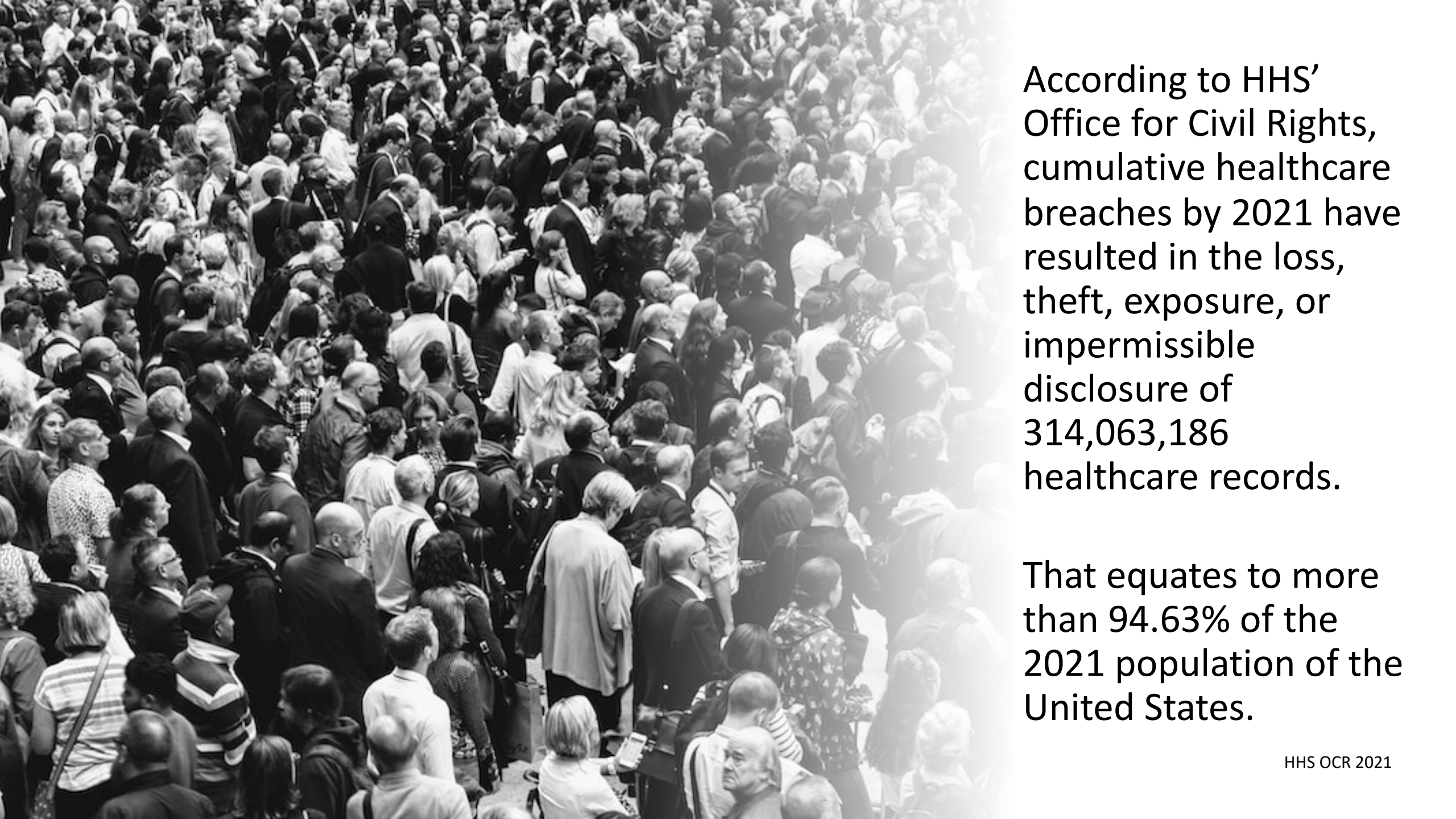
That results in:

- Hospitals forced on divert
- Cancellation of appointments
- Patient safety concerns
- Loss of revenue
- Loss of reputation
- OCR investigation & fines
- Class Action Lawsuits

The average total
cost of a breach
in healthcare
increased by
9.4% to **\$10.1
million** in 2022.

IBM X-Force Cost of a Data Breach Report, 2022





According to HHS' Office for Civil Rights, cumulative healthcare breaches by 2021 have resulted in the loss, theft, exposure, or impermissible disclosure of 314,063,186 healthcare records.

That equates to more than 94.63% of the 2021 population of the United States.

Cybercrime
cost \$6 Trillion
USD in 2021



CYBER CRIME CYBER CRIME

By 2025 Cybercrime will cost \$10.5 Trillion USD



**A few departing thoughts to
consider**

**Can you speak
'Cyber'?**

**Do clinicians know
the right questions
to ask?**





Should we implicitly trust IT / IoT?



Hacking Healthcare Live: Bits and Bytes Meet Flesh and Blood

San Francisco | April 16-20 | Moscone Center

RSA Conference

SESSION ID: EXP-R04

HACKING HEALTHCARE BITS AND BYTES MEET FLESH AND BLOOD

JOSHUA CORMAN

CSO | Founder
PTC | From The Cavalry
@joshcorman

CHRISTIAN DAMEFF MD

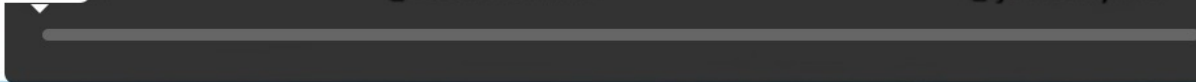
Emergency Medicine
Hacker
@CDameffMD

JEFF TULLY MD

Pediatrics / Anesthesiology
Hacker
@jefftullymd



45:03



vimeo

Available to watch on my blog at <https://cyberthoughts.org> – search for ‘RSA’

**Let's Keep the Lights
on
&
Keep Patients Safe**





Thank You



@rstaynings



richardstaynings

Richard Staynings

Chief Security Strategist, Cylera



<https://cyberthoughts.org/>



<https://cylera.com>

