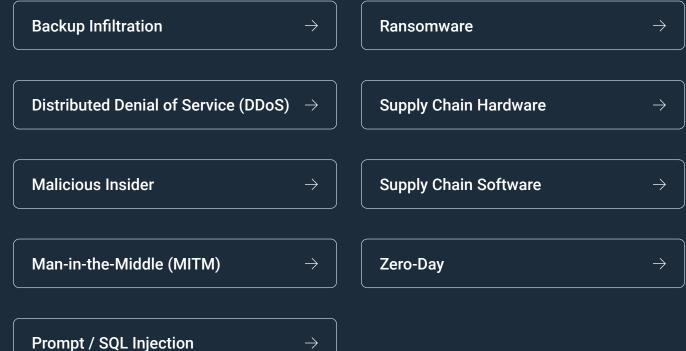
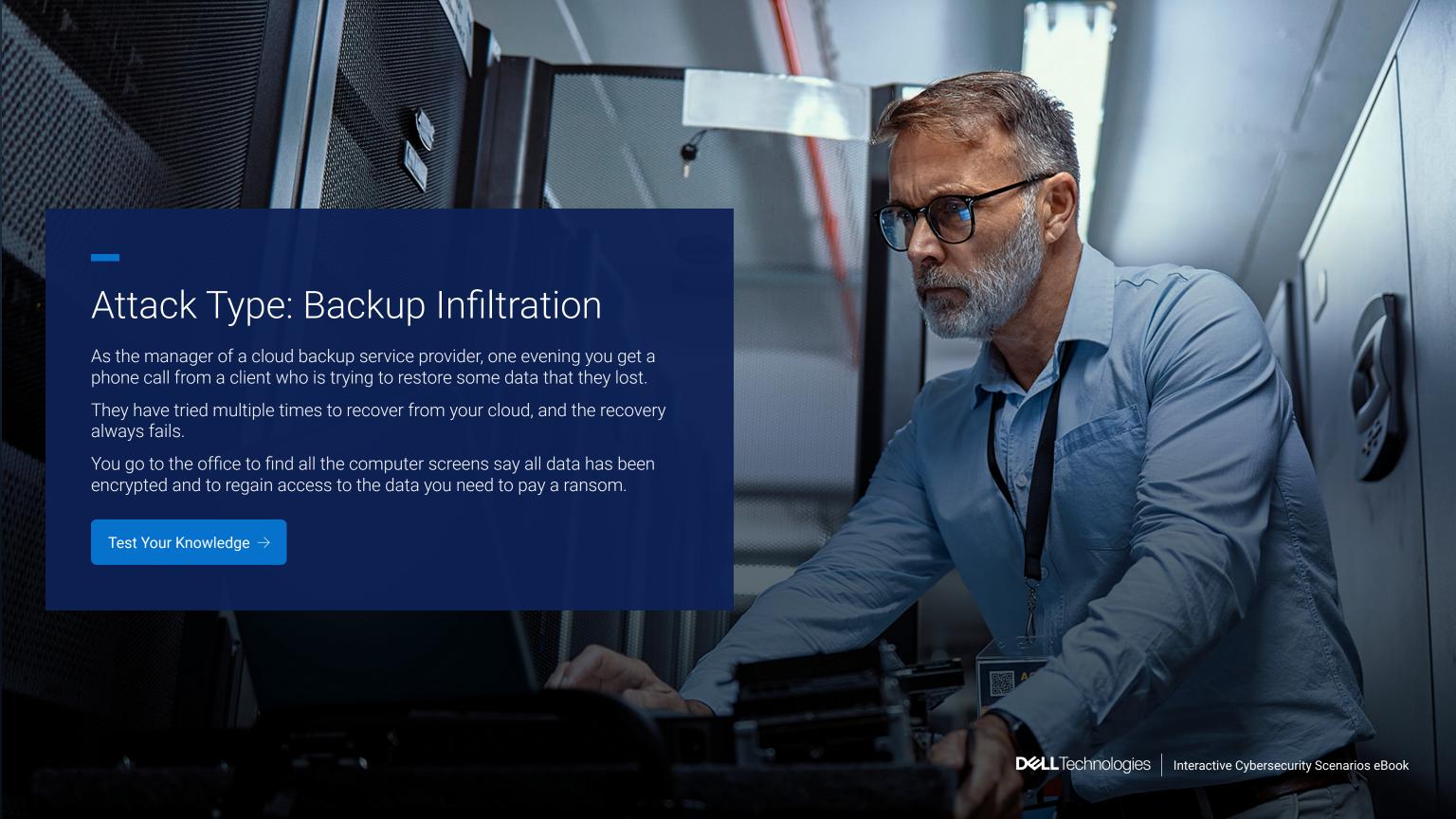


Choose an attack scenario

Cybersecurity threats are constantly evolving, and organizations need to respond effectively to protect their data. To best prepare your organization, immerse yourself in real-world simulation exercises to help navigate your cybersecurity strategies to combat cyberattacks.

Explore a wide range of attack types and industry-specific challenges across sectors like federal, state, and local government, financial services, and healthcare. Along the way, you'll discover how Dell's integrated security solutions—from laptops and desktops to enterprise systems—are built to safeguard against these threats.







You're not sure which backup systems or customers have been impacted. What should be your first step?

Notify the authorities

Shut down all the systems

Try to contain and isolate the threat

Identify if you have a clean backup to restore from





You're not sure which backup systems or customers have been impacted. What should be your first step?

- × Notify the authorities
- Shut down all the systems
- Try to contain and isolate the threat
- Identify if you have a clean backup to restore from.

Immediately containing and isolating a threat prevents further spread or damage and allows time to assess the scope of the incident, potentially minimizing the impact for all types of cyberattacks, including those involving Al.





Your priority is to get your customers' data available to them quickly. How would you accomplish this?

Pay the ransom

Identify the ransomware strain

Notify the authorities

Identify what data has been compromised





Your priority is to get your customers' data available to them quickly. How would you accomplish this?

- × Pay the ransom
- Identify the ransomware strain
- × Notify the authorities
- Identify what data has been compromised

Identifying compromised data helps focus recovery efforts on restoring the most critical customer information, ensuring faster data availability, and avoiding unnecessary work on unaffected systems.











4

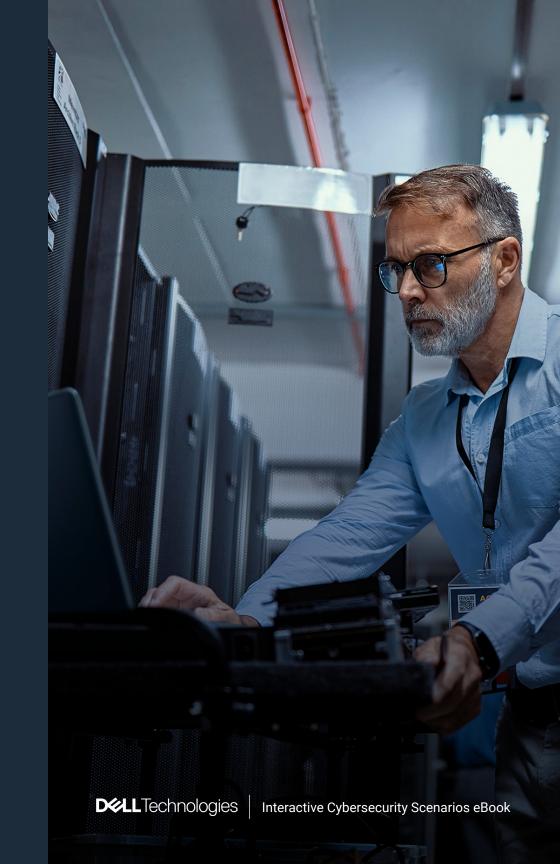
You identify you have a backup to recover from. What should be the first step in your process?

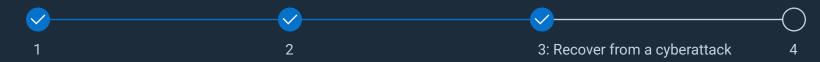
Prioritize restoring critical systems first

Use forensic analysis to confirm the attack is fully contained

Change all passwords and revoke compromised credentials

Implement zero trust principles





You identify you have a backup to recover from. What should be the first step in your process?

- Prioritize restoring critical systems first
- Use forensic analysis to confirm the attack is fully contained
- Change all passwords and revoke compromised credentials
- Implement zero trust principles

Before restoring systems, you need to ensure the attack is fully contained to help prevent accidental reinfection and further damage to avoid perpetuating or escalating threats in your environment.











4: Overall best practices

What are potential ways to mitigate risk of this happening in the future?

Utilize zero trust principles

Enable Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) capabilities

Implement immutable and air-gapped backups

All of the above











4: Overall best practices

What are potential ways to mitigate risk of this happening in the future?

- Utilize zero trust principles
- Enable Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) capabilities
- Implement immutable and air-gapped backups
- All of the above

Using a multi-layered defense strategy can reduce risk, minimize damage, and enhance organizational resilience as no single measure is sufficient on its own.

See Solutions \rightarrow



ATTACK TYPE: BACKUP INFILTRATION

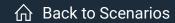
Recap

Backup infiltration occurs when cybercriminals exploit vulnerabilities in backup systems to compromise, destroy, or encrypt critical recovery data. These sophisticated attacks may coincide with or follow other incidents, such as ransomware or malware deployment, amplifying the operational and financial fallout.

At Dell, we believe in empowering organizations to stay resilient in the face of evolving cyber threats. With our cutting-edge solutions, expert services, and trusted partnerships, we're here to help you protect what matters most.

Learn more about our solutions and how we're tackling today's toughest cyber challenges.

Explore the Backup Infiltration Brief \rightarrow











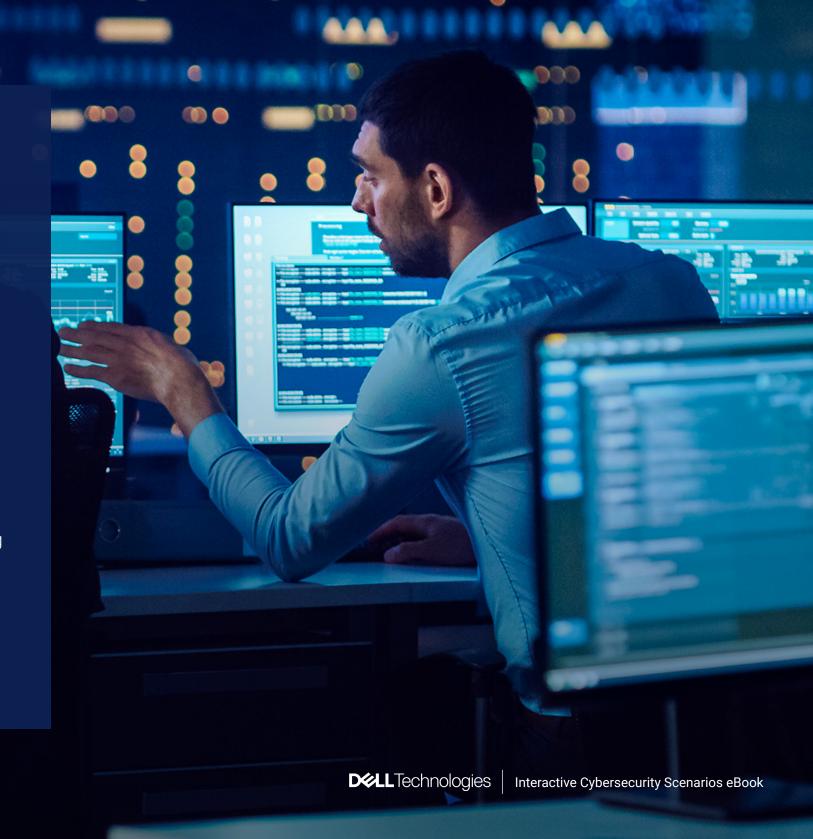
It's Tuesday afternoon at a state government agency on a day of what is supposed to be a big snowstorm.

A flood of calls come into the IT team at the Department of Transportation from agents that can't get into any of their systems to:

- Renew driver's licenses
- Get road permits
- Pay taxes
- Check road conditions
- Engage emergency response systems, delaying road crews from clearing snowy/icy roads

all due to their systems timing out.

Test Your Knowledge \rightarrow





Where is the first place to look for what may be happening?

Check network devices for sudden, unexplained surges in inbound traffic

Check network devices for unusual traffic from a single or limited number of IP addresses

Check firewall or network visibility tools logs for excessive failed connections or traffic blocking events

All of the above





Where is the first place to look for what may be happening?

- Check network devices for sudden, unexplained surges in inbound traffic
- Check network devices for unusual traffic from a single or limited number of IP addresses
- Check firewall or network visibility tools logs for excessive failed connections or traffic blocking events
- ✓ All of the above

To properly diagnose widespread system outages, you need to simultaneously review network device activity and firewall or visibility tool logs to quickly spot unusual patterns or blocking events. This allows for faster, more accurate incident response because you can distinguish between cyber incidents and infrastructure problems.





You suspect this may be a DDoS attack. What is your first step?

Redirect all network traffic through a DDoS mitigation service

Activate Web Application Firewall (WAF) rules to filter out malicious patterns

Check if the spike in traffic is due to legitimate sources

Communicate internally and externally what is going on





You suspect this may be a DDoS attack. What is your first step?

- Redirect all network traffic through a DDoS mitigation service
- 🗙 Activate Web Application Firewall (WAF) rules to filter out malicious patterns
- Check if the spike in traffic is due to legitimate sources
- Communicate internally and externally what is going on

Before activating DDoS countermeasures, it is essential to verify the legitimacy of a traffic spike. This allows you to avoid accidentally blocking genuine users, prevent disruption to critical stakeholders and ensure that any further protective actions are appropriate and precisely targeted—minimizing negative impact on public operations and overall business continuity.





What are some steps you can put in place to try to avoid a DDoS attack in the future?

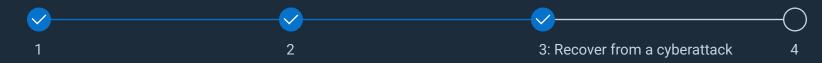
Block the offending IP addresses

Perform regular penetration tests with DDoS simulations

Move all applications to the cloud because cloud providers don't usually get DDoS attacks

Implement zero trust principles





What are some steps you can put in place to try to avoid a DDoS attack in the future?

- Block the offending IP addresses
- Perform regular penetration tests with DDoS simulations
- Move all applications to the cloud because cloud providers don't usually get DDoS attacks.
- Implement zero trust principles

Proactive penetration testing with DDoS simulations identifies and strengthens gaps in your defenses, while zero trust principles are focused on minimizing risk by enforcing least-privilege access at all times. This helps reduce the risk of disrupting essential systems, such as emergency response coordination or real-time traffic signal controls, that must remain functional even during an attack.





As a part of your overall incident response and recovery plan (IRR), who should you notify?

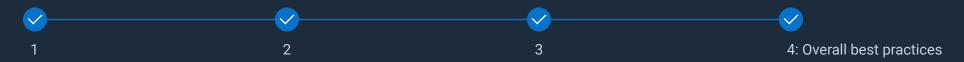
Your legal team

Your cyber insurance vendor

CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency), FBI, MS-ISAC (Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center)

All of the above





As a part of your overall incident response and recovery plan (IRR), who should you notify?

- ✓ Your legal team
- Your cyber insurance vendor
- CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency), FBI, MS-ISAC (Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center)
- ✓ All of the above

During a large-scale cyber incident, consider coordinating with legal, insurance, and government agencies regarding compliance, claims, and law enforcement. After you ensure all regulatory requirements are met, your organization can effectively contain, resolve, and recover from the incident.

See Solutions ightarrow



ATTACK TYPE: DISTRIBUTED DENIAL OF SERVICE (DDOS)

Recap

A DDoS attack seeks to disrupt the normal functioning of a network, service, or server by overwhelming it with a massive volume of traffic from multiple sources. These attacks are executed by exploiting botnets, which are networks of infected devices controlled remotely by attackers.

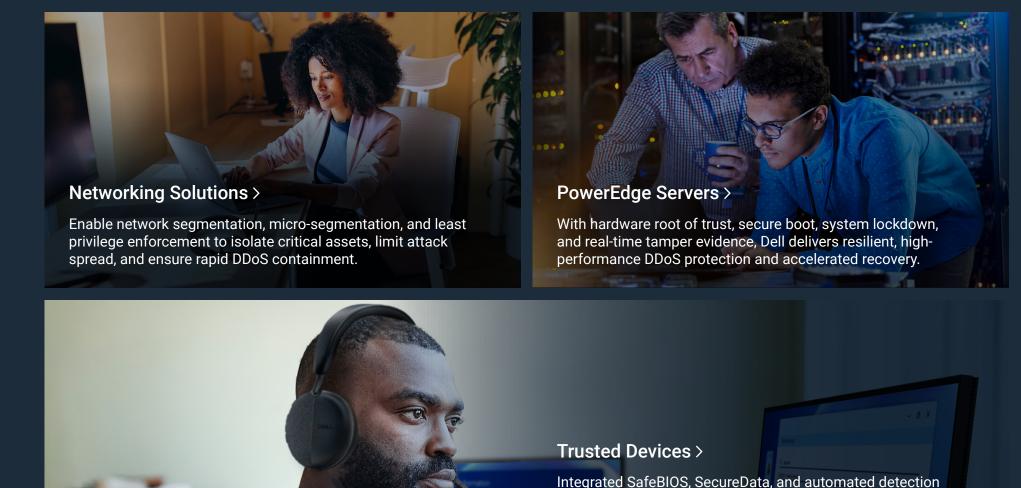
At Dell, we help organizations stay resilient against DDoS attacks by combining advanced detection and mitigation technologies with expert services and a zero trust approach, ensuring swift response, minimized disruptions, and strengthened defenses.

Learn more about advanced cyber resilience strategies and how Dell can help you safeguard your organization against DDoS.

Explore the DDoS Brief \rightarrow



♠ Back to Scenarios

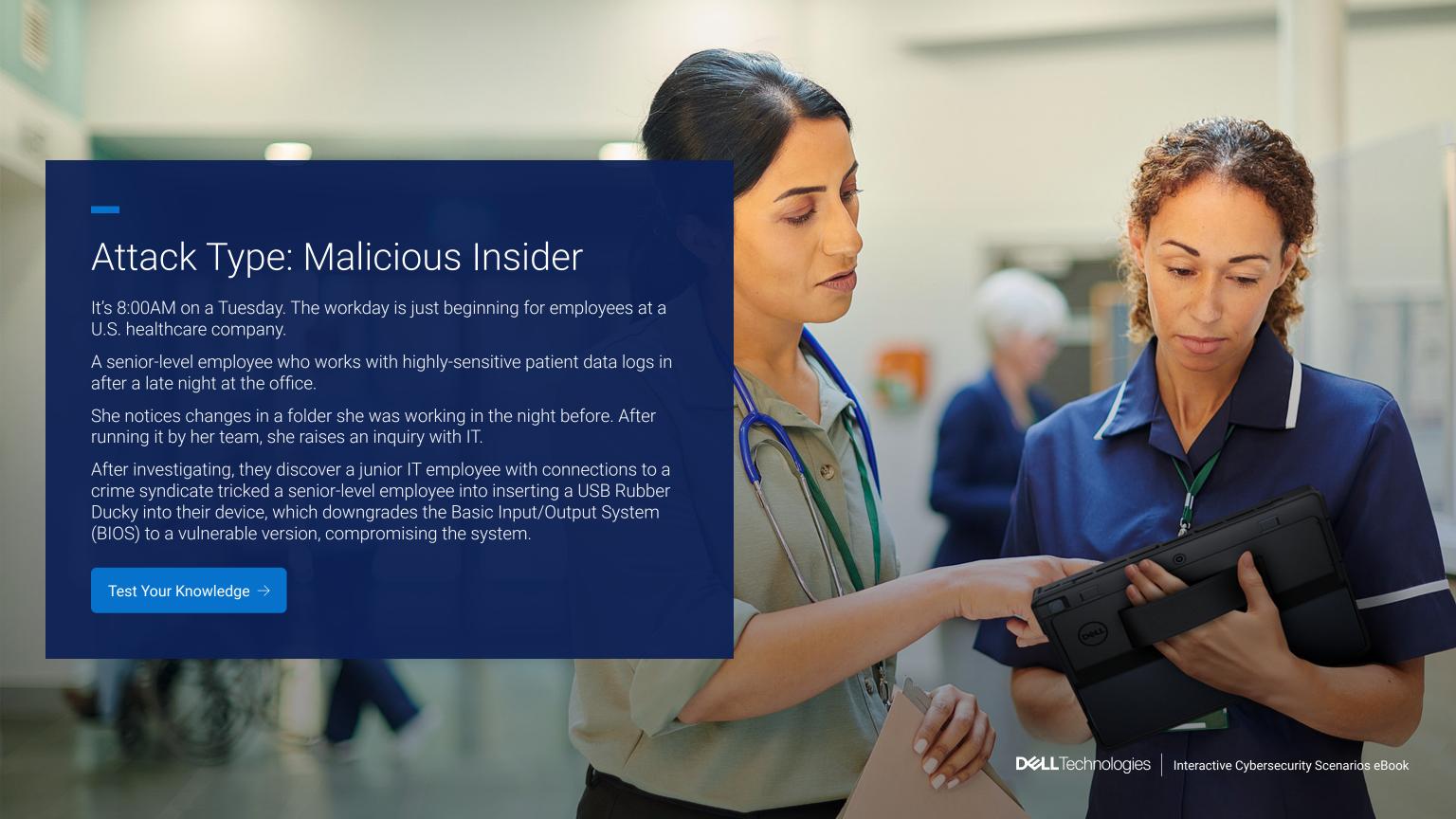


vectors.





and response reduce endpoint attack surfaces by up to 70%, preventing DDoS-driven distractions from becoming breach





The malicious insider initiated this attack using two methods tracked by the MITRE Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge, or MITRE ATT&CK, framework. What are they?

Trusted relationship + Replication through removable media

Social engineering + Replication through removable media

Social engineering + External remote services

Trusted relationship + Hardware additions





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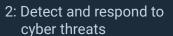
- Trusted relationship + Replication through removable media
- Social engineering + Replication through removable media
- Social engineering + External remote services
- × Trusted relationship + Hardware additions

By aligning with MITRE ATT&CK techniques for both human manipulation and replication through portable storage, the attacker leveraged social engineering to trick a senior employee into connecting a USB Rubber Ducky, delivering compromised data via removable media.













Why did the attacker need to use both methods?

Enter the network as a global admin to downgrade the Basic Input/Output System (BIOS)

Phish the admin to allow them to downgrade the BIOS

Change the device's domain name system (DNS) provider to obtain credentials needed for one-time network access

Install malware on a device to obtain credentials needed for continuous network access







2: Detect and respond to cyber threats





Why did the attacker need to use both methods?

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- Phish the admin to allow them to downgrade the BIOS
- Change the device's domain name system (DNS) provider to obtain credentials needed for one-time network access
- Install malware on a device to obtain credentials needed for continuous network access

The attacker needed to use both methods—the malware installation via the USB Rubber Ducky to compromise the device and the credentials to enable ongoing continuous network access—to establish persistent, unauthorized control over the target environment.





—(

3: Detect and respond to cyber threats

5

What is one way of detecting irregular network activity?

Application control

Extended Detection and Response (XDR)

Next-gen antivirus (NGAV)

Endpoint geofencing





What is one way of detecting irregular network activity?

- × Application control
- Extended Detection and Response (XDR)
- Next-gen antivirus (NGAV)
- Endpoint geofencing

When it comes to providing broad, correlated visibility for rapid detection of threats, XDR is best for detecting suspicious network activity because it continuously monitors and analyzes activity across endpoints, networks, and cloud environments.





What built-in PC security could detect suspicious activity early in the kill chain?

Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)

Extended Detection and Response (XDR)

Indicators of Attach (IOA)

Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)





What built-in PC security could detect suspicious activity early in the kill chain?

- Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)
- Extended Detection and Response (XDR)
- ✓ Indicators of Attach (IOA)
- Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)

IOA focuses on detecting attacker behaviors and suspicious activity patterns as they happen, allowing security teams to identify threats earlier than signature-based methods and intervene before significant damage occurs.















5: Overall best practices

After pinpointing the initial access method, what measure could you take to recover from and prevent similar future breaches?

Update BIOS to the latest version

Disable BIOS downgrade option

Disable USB ports

Implement granular control to enable safe USB device use and prevent the spread of malware

All of the above













5: Overall best practices

After pinpointing the initial access method, what measure could you take to recover from and prevent similar future breaches?

- Update BIOS to the latest version
- ✓ Disable BIOS downgrade option
- ✓ Disable USB ports
- Implement granular control to enable safe USB device use and prevent the spread of malware
- ✓ All of the above

By addressing distinct attack vectors to ensure hardware is secure and downgrades are blocked, USB-based threats can be contained and malware spread is stopped at multiple points to help create a comprehensive, layered defense that recovers impacted systems and protects against future breaches.

See Solutions $\, o \,$



ATTACK TYPE: MALICIOUS INSIDER

Recap

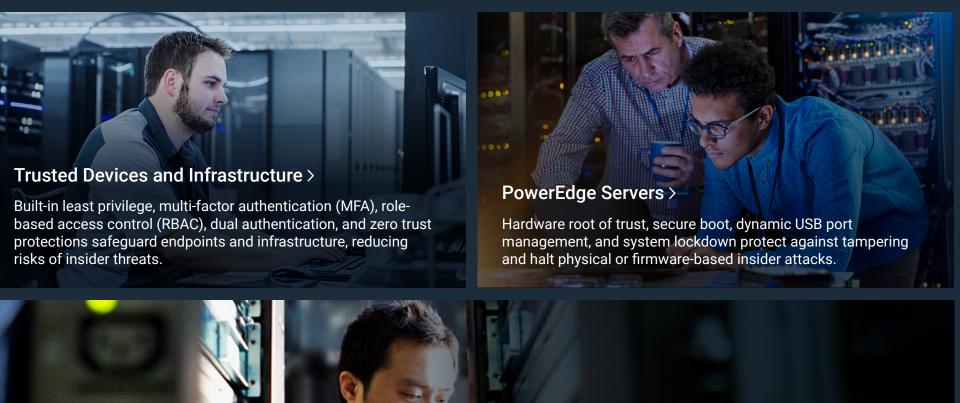
A Malicious Insider attack occurs when an individual within an organization misuses their access to compromise data, disrupt operations, or extract sensitive information for personal, financial, or competitive objectives. This individual could be an employee, contractor, partner, or anyone with legitimate access to the company's systems and networks.

Dell defends against malicious insider cyberattacks through a combination of advanced technologies and strict security protocols.

Learn more about advanced cyber resilience strategies and how Dell can help you safeguard your organization against Malicious Insider attacks.

Explore the Malicious Insider Brief \rightarrow





time.



resilience against insider-driven events.



PowerProtect Portfolio >

Unmodifiable, isolated backups ensure data integrity, quick restoration, and early detection of data manipulation attempts, enabling recovery from insider incidents.





detection and response (XDR), and automated threat intelligence

identify, contain, and mitigate complex internal threats in real



An unsuspecting customer connects to a free, unsecured Wi-Fi at a coffee shop to finalize last-minute updates to a shared team document.

Moments later, their company's IT receives notifications of unusual login attempts from the employee's account, as well as unauthorized data access from multiple locations worldwide.

After investigating, they confirm the attacker has intercepted and manipulated the wireless connection, accessing sensitive information.

Test Your Knowledge \rightarrow

Attack Type: Man-in-the-Middle (MITM)



Where is the first place the IT team should investigate after detecting unusual login attempts?

Firewall, intrusion detection system (IDS), intrusion prevention system (IPS) logs and extended detection response (XDR)

The affected employee's laptop

Network traffic on the coffee shop's unsecured Wi-Fi

Authentication logs from the company's systems



Attack Type: Man-in-the-Middle (MITM)



Where is the first place the IT team should investigate after detecting unusual login attempts?

- Firewall, intrusion detection system (IDS), intrusion prevention system (IPS) logs and extended detection response (XDR)
- The affected employee's laptop
- Network traffic on the coffee shop's unsecured Wi-Fi
- Authentication logs from the company's systems

By analyzing these firewall and IDS/IPS and authentication logs, IT teams can trace unauthorized access attempts, assess compromised accounts, and gain a better understanding of the incident's scope.





What immediate action should be taken by the IT team after confirming the MITM attack?

Disconnect the compromised employee's device from the network immediately and isolate it for analysis

Update firewall rules and network configurations to stop further unauthorized access

Reset passwords for all employee accounts

Disable affected systems to prevent data exfiltration





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- Disconnect the compromised employee's device from the network immediately and isolate it for analysis
- Update firewall rules and network configurations to stop further unauthorized access
- Reset passwords for all employee accounts
- Disable affected systems to prevent data exfiltration

Immediately disconnecting and isolating the compromised device stops attacker access and preserves forensic evidence, while updating firewall and network rules blocks further malicious connections and protects the broader network from ongoing compromise.









4

What preventative measures could have reduced the vulnerability to the MITM attack?

Enforce the use of virtual private network (VPN) for all employees

Implement zero trust security principles like multi-factor authentication (MFA)

Avoid public Wi-Fi

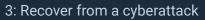
Encrypt sensitive files shared via email











4

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- Enforce the use of virtual private network (VPN) for all employees
- Implement zero trust security principles like multi-factor authentication (MFA)
- × Avoid public Wi-Fi
- Encrypt sensitive files shared via email

Enforcing VPN use over unsecured networks encrypts employee internet traffic to prevent interception, while implementing zero trust security and MFA ensures every access request is continuously verified.











4: Overall best practices

After addressing the breach, what long-term strategies should your organization implement?

Regularly audit and patch systems

Increase network segmentation to isolate sensitive data and systems

Deploy endpoint detection and response (EDR) and managed detection and response (MDR) solutions

Implement robust and regular training for employees

All of the above











4: Overall best practices

After addressing the breach, what long-term strategies should your organization implement?

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- Increase network segmentation to isolate sensitive data and systems
- Deploy endpoint detection and response (EDR) and managed detection and response (MDR) solutions
- Implement robust and regular training for employees
- ✓ All of the above

To protect against different threats, these long-term strategies combine to create a comprehensive, resilient security posture that blocks attackers from exploiting gaps and ensures rapid, effective response to breaches.

See Solutions $\, o \,$



ATTACK TYPE: MAN-IN-THE-MIDDLE (MITM)

Recap

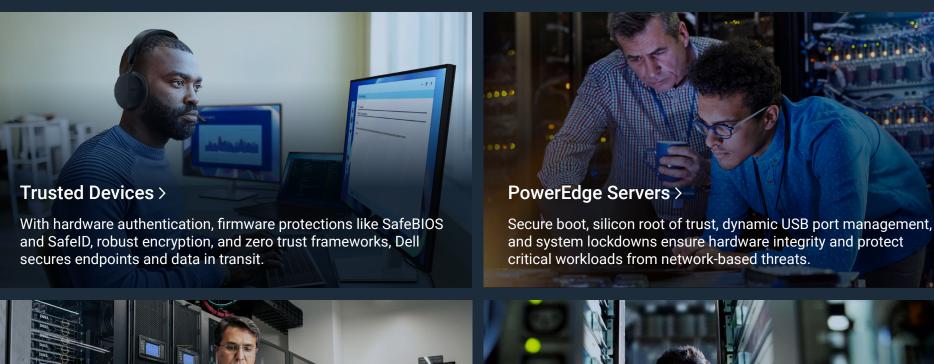
A MITM attack happens when a cybercriminal secretly intercepts communications between two parties, such as between an employee and a corporate server or a customer and a business website. The attacker's goal may vary, but the result is the same: a breach of trust and security.

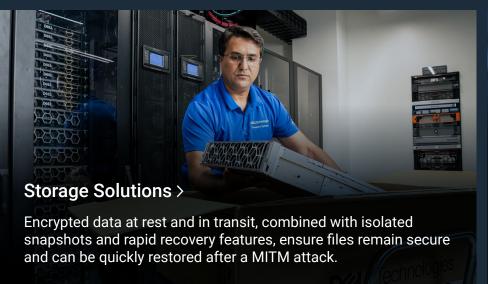
At Dell, we deliver innovative, scalable security solutions, empowering organizations to neutralize MITM threats, safeguard assets, and maintain business integrity with the tools and expertise needed to detect, respond to, and recover with confidence.

Learn more about advanced cyber resilience strategies and see how Dell can help you safeguard your organization against MITM attacks.

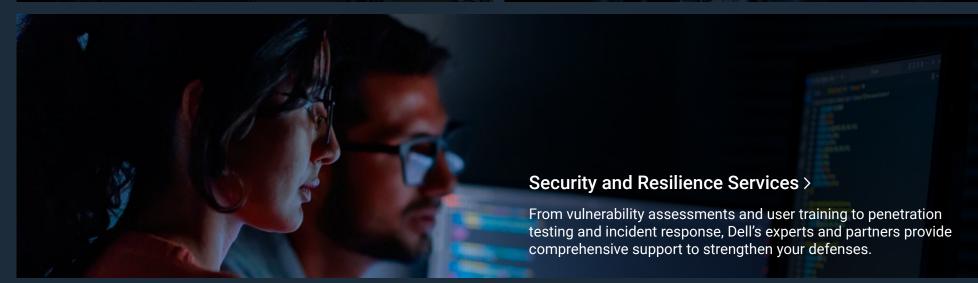
Read MITM Attacks Brief →











You work in customer service for an airline that predominantly conducts service though a chatbot.

You start to notice that you and your colleagues are getting an influx of calls from customers stating that they can't get into their frequent flyer accounts, and when they do, they see all their frequent flyer miles are gone.

Test Your Knowledge \rightarrow



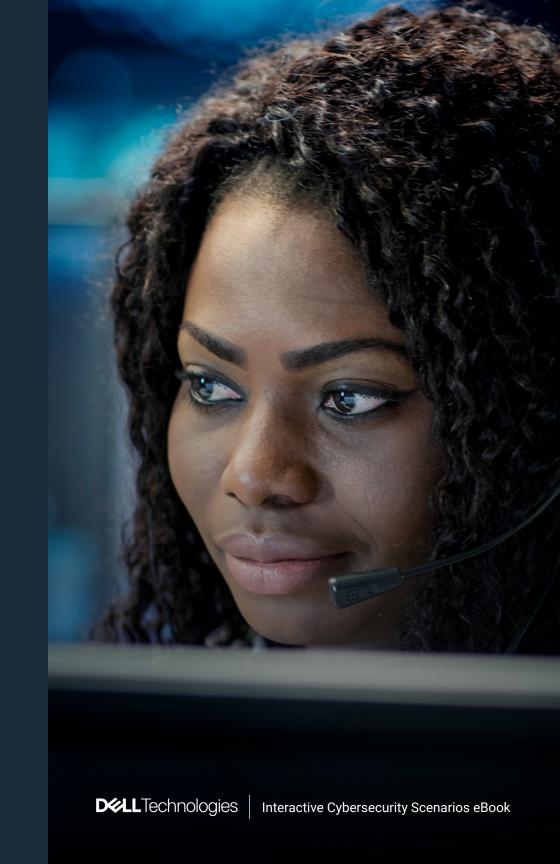
Upon investigation you see some errors in the logs; Syntax error in Structured Query Language (SQL) statement or Invalid column name 'admin'. What type of a cyber incident is this?

Stolen credentials

Prompt or SQL injection

Man-in-the-Middle attack

Phishing

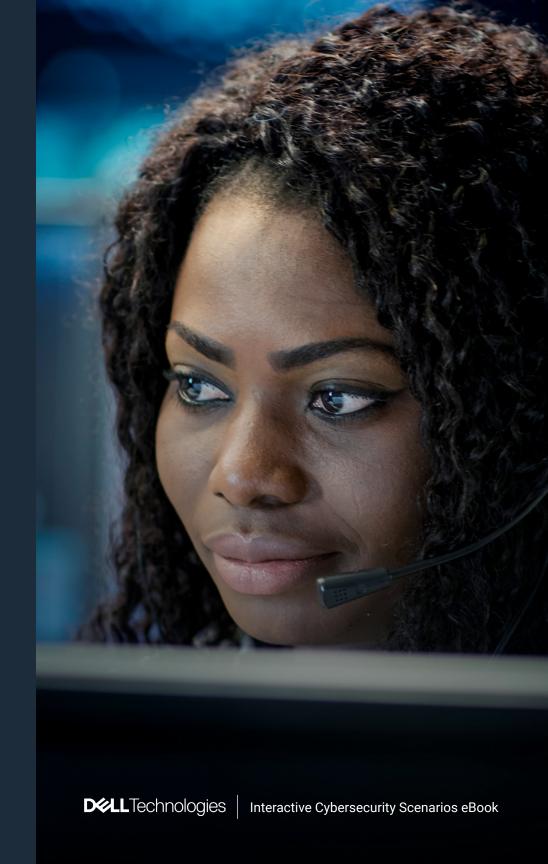




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- × Stolen credentials
- Prompt or SQL injection
- Man-in-the-Middle attack
- × Phishing

'Prompt or SQL injection' is correct because log errors like "Syntax error in SQL statement" or "Invalid column name 'admin" reveal that attackers exploited the chatbot's input fields with malicious SQL code to access or alter customer account data, which are clear technical indicators of an SQL injection attack matching the suspicious activity described.





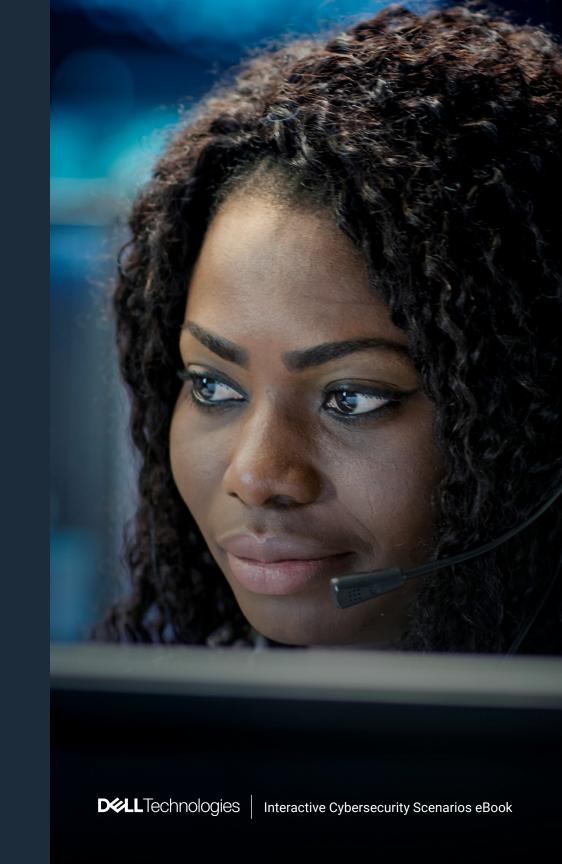
You realize you have been hit with a Prompt / SQL Injection through your customer service chatbot. What should you do?

Take the bot offline

Investigate database logs for unauthorized access and stolen, modified, or deleted data

Comply with all data breach disclosure laws

All of the above

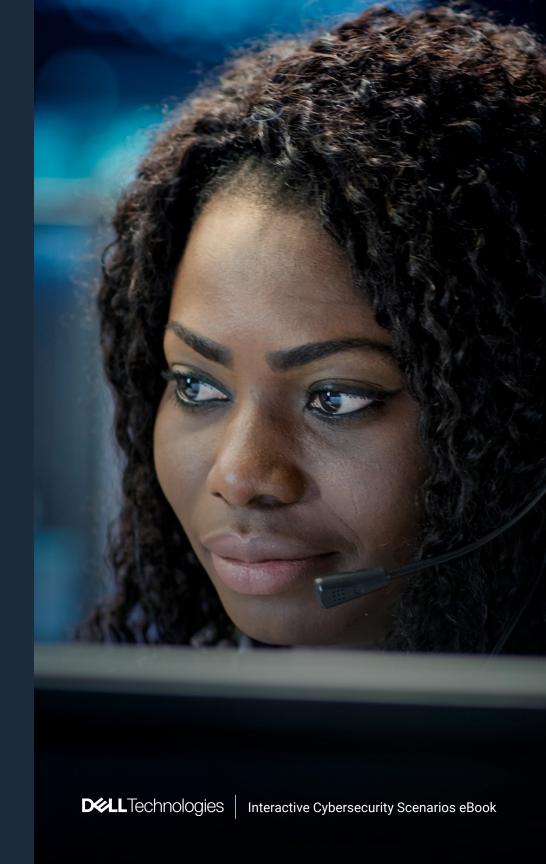




You realize you have been hit with a Prompt / SQL Injection through your customer service chatbot. What should you do?

- Take the bot offline
- Investigate database logs for unauthorized access and stolen, modified, or deleted data
- Comply with all data breach disclosure laws
- All of the above

Responding to a Prompt / SQL Injection attack requires taking the chatbot offline, investigating database logs for unauthorized access, and ensuring compliance with disclosure laws. These steps are essential to stop exploitation, assess damage, and meet regulatory and ethical obligations.













4

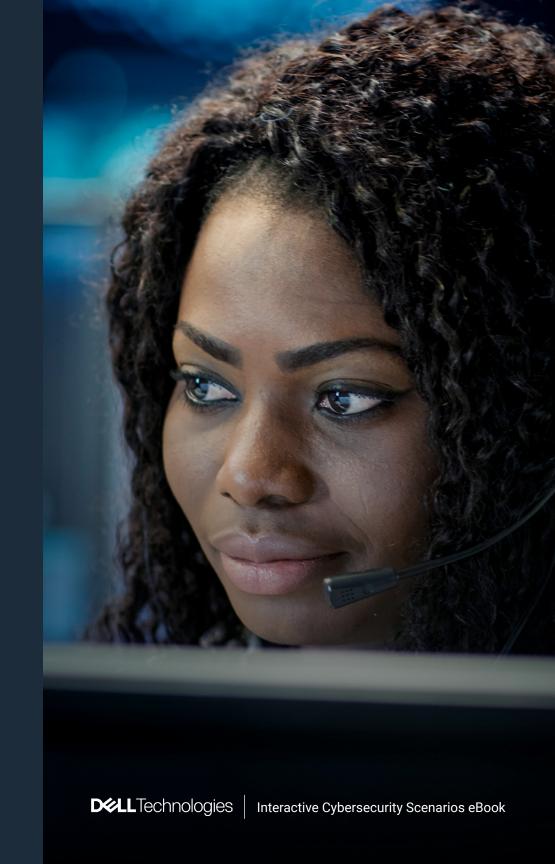
What capabilities should you put in place to help stop Prompt / SQL Injections?

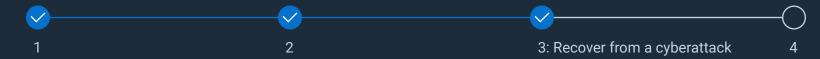
Educate the development teams to use prepared statements and parameterized queries as a coding practice

Manage detection and response (MDR) tools

Implement least privilege access, such as multi-factor authentication (MFA), role-based access control (RBAC), web application firewall (WAF), etc.

Segment backend databases / knowledge bases.

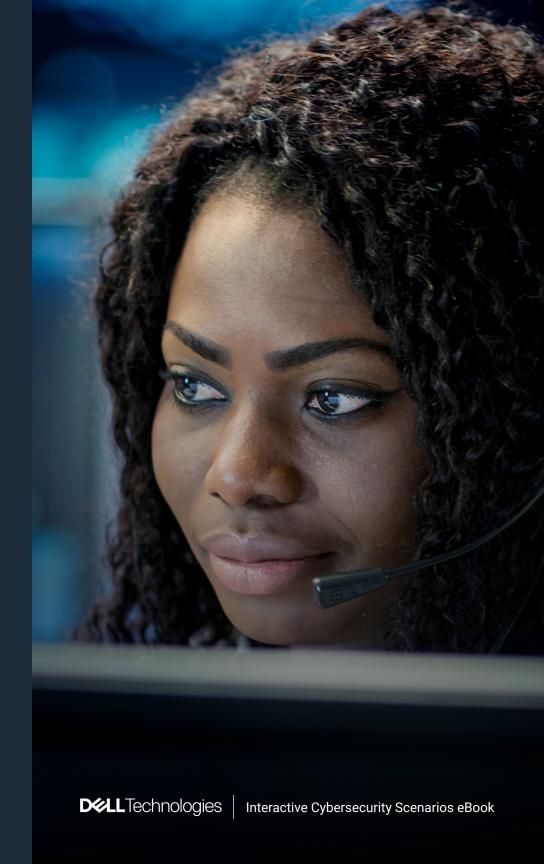


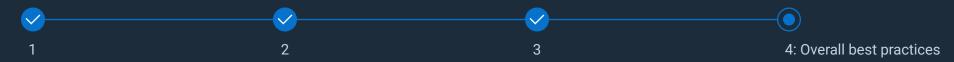


What capabilities should you put in place to help stop Prompt / SQL Injections?

- Educate the development teams to use prepared statements and parameterized queries as a coding practice
- Manage detection and response (MDR) tools
- Implement least privilege access, such as multi-factor authentication (MFA), role-based access control (RBAC), web application firewall (WAF), etc.
- Segment backend databases / knowledge bases.

Training development teams to use prepared statements and parameterized queries blocks SQL injection attacks at the source, while enforcing least privilege access controls, such as MFA, RBAC, and WAF, limits the impact of any attempted injection by preventing attackers from escalating privileges or moving laterally.





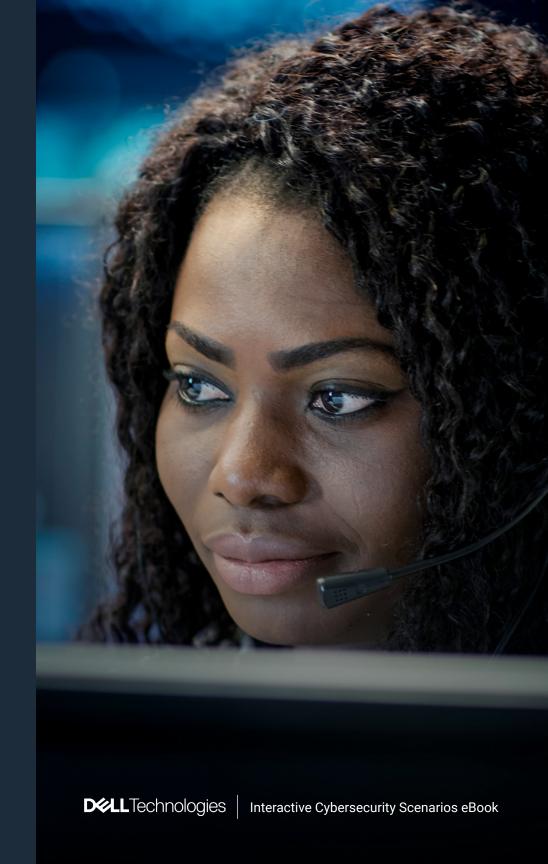
What steps would you take to get the airline customers data back?

Track down the stolen data

Have customers rebuild their profiles

Buy it back from the cyber attackers

Restore from most recent uncompromised backup to restore frequent flyer miles and notify the customers that they should change their passwords and check their credit cards











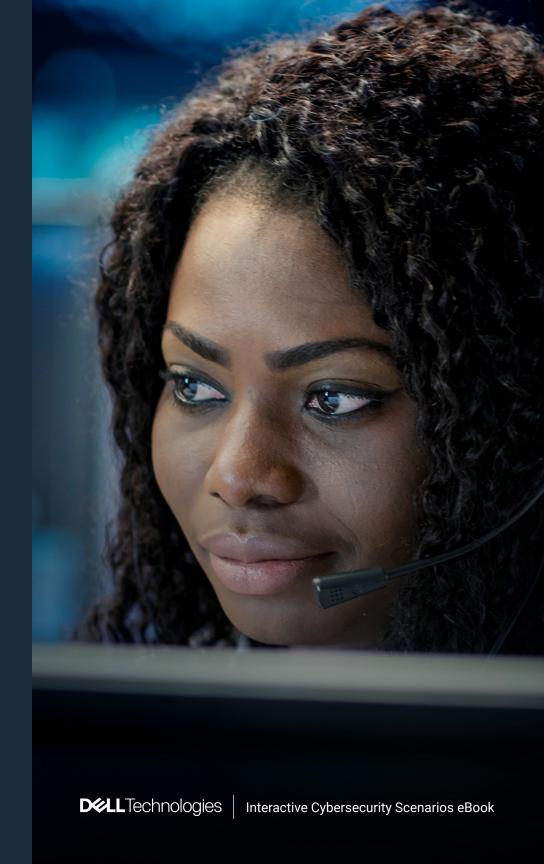
4: Overall best practices

What steps would you take to get the airline customers data back?

- Track down the stolen data
- X Have customers rebuild their profiles
- Buy it back from the cyber attackers
- Restore from most recent uncompromised backup to restore frequent flyer miles and notify the customers that they should change their passwords and check their credit cards

Recovering lost account data from the latest uncompromised backup helps maintain data integrity and reduce downtime. Promptly notifying customers to reset passwords and monitor credit card activity further supports regulatory compliance following a destructive injection attack.

See Solutions $\, o \,$



ATTACK TYPE: PROMPT / SQL INJECTION

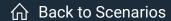
Recap

Prompt and SQL injection attacks have repeatedly proven to be among the most damaging and pervasive methods of cyberattack used by cybercriminals. These attacks exploit vulnerabilities in user-query or database systems, allowing malicious actors to manipulate servers, steal data, or disrupt workflows.

Protecting your organization from evolving Prompt / SQL Injection threats and attacks are part of Dell's ongoing commitment to cybersecurity, and we provide the tools and expertise needed for detection, response, and recovery.

Discover advanced cyber resilience strategies and see how Dell can empower your organization to defend against Prompt and SQL injection attacks.

Explore Prompt / SQL Injection Brief \rightarrow





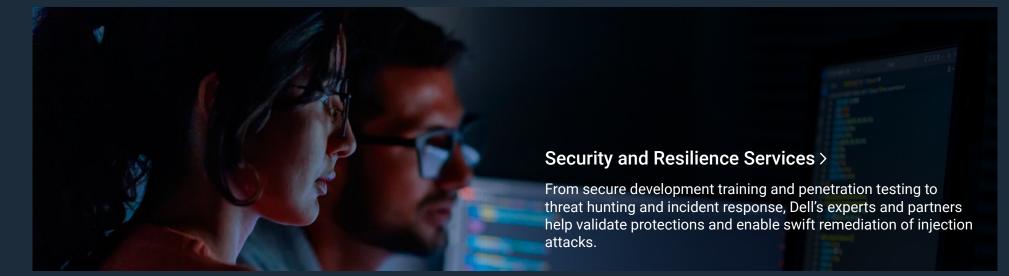


identify and mitigate SQL and prompt injection attempts.





recovery analytics provide trusted restore points, enabling rapid recovery from data corruption or exfiltration.







The help desk receives over 100 reports of file encryption and application errors. Security logs show unusual file renaming activity from an internal domain account. What is your first step?

Pay the ransom immediately to restore critical services

Notify law enforcement and legal counsel

Begin reimaging all affected endpoints

Disconnect infected systems from the network





The help desk receives over 100 reports of file encryption and application errors. Security logs show unusual file renaming activity from an internal domain account. What is your first step?

- Pay the ransom immediately to restore critical services
- Notify law enforcement and legal counsel
- Begin reimaging all affected endpoints
- ✓ Disconnect infected systems from the network

Immediately disconnecting and isolating infected hospital systems stops ransomware from spreading, protects critical medical devices and sensitive patient data, preserves evidence for investigation, and buys vital time for a coordinated response and recovery.





The Incident Response team discovers that the attack likely started from a compromised account that was used to access a server with no multifactor authentication (MFA). Which of the following contributed most directly to the attack?

Outdated antivirus definitions

An exposed electronic health record (EHR) database

Lack of MFA on remote access

Weak email filtering





The Incident Response team discovers that the attack likely started from a compromised account that was used to access a server with no multifactor authentication (MFA). Which of the following contributed most directly to the attack?

- Outdated antivirus definitions
- An exposed electronic health record (EHR) database
- Lack of MFA on remote access
- Weak email filtering

Lack of MFA on remote access enabled the server breach by allowing attackers to log in with stolen or guessed credentials without an extra verification step. With MFA, even compromised accounts would require a second factor, dramatically reducing the risk of unauthorized access.





Medical staff now rely on paper-based workflows. Patients scheduled for surgery today cannot be verified in the system. What is the best short-term action to support hospital operations?

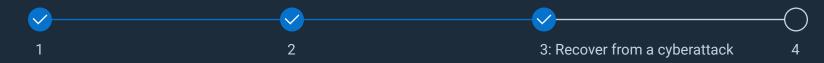
Reboot the core database server to attempt reinitialization

Enable all old backups, even if they are six months old

Activate hospital's manual downtime procedures and escalate to the emergency response team

Let staff decide how to proceed on a case-by-case basis





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Activating manual downtime procedures and escalating to the emergency response team ensures the immediate continuity of critical clinical workflows, safeguards patient safety, and establishes a standardized process for verifying and documenting care. This approach minimizes errors, efficiently manages risks and resources, and supports specialists in safely restoring digital systems.





The local media has picked up the story. Leadership wants to know if they should issue a public statement, and legal is asking about Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) obligations. Which is the most appropriate next step?

Deny the incident publicly until more information is available

Issue a press release blaming the third-party IT vendor

Notify regulators and begin internal breach notification procedures

Immediately pay the ransom and avoid public attention





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Promptly reporting breaches of protected health information to authorities and affected individuals, as required by HIPAA and state laws, ensures regulatory compliance, legal protection, and best-practice transparency to prevent legal and reputational damage, fulfilling mandatory disclosure obligations, and establishing proper communication with patients, staff, and stakeholders.

See Solutions \rightarrow



ATTACK TYPE: RANSOMWARE

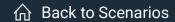
Recap

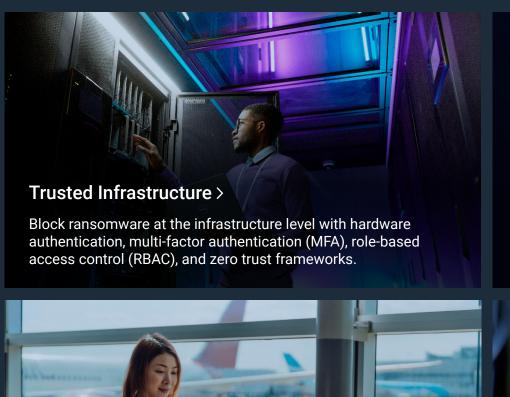
Ransomware is a type of malware that blocks access to a computer system or data until a ransom is paid. It's one of the most disruptive types of cyberattacks. Fifty percent of organizations globally have been hit by ransomware at least once in the past year and the average downtime following a ransomware attack is three weeks, leading to significant operational disruptions.

At Dell, we prioritize safeguarding your organization with zero trust frameworks, endpoint protection, and network segmentation to block ransomware entry and limit its spread. With expert-led incident response planning, we help you stay resilient and recover quickly from attacks.

Learn more about advanced cyber resilience strategies and see how Dell can help you safeguard your organization against Ransomware Attacks.

Explore Ransomware Attacks Brief ightarrow





Integrate SafeBIOS, SafeID, SafeData, and endpoint detection and response (EDR) tools to deliver proactive threat intelligence,

real-time detection, and automated malware containment at the

Trusted Workspace >

device level.

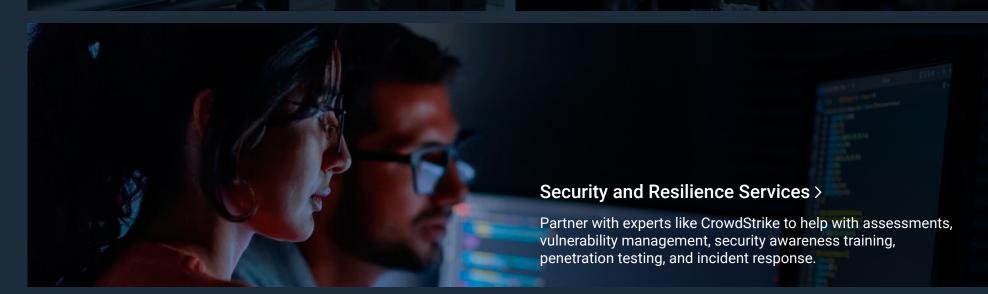


Networking and PowerEdge Servers >

management, and system lockdown.

Restrict ransomware movement. Featuring network

segmentation, secure boot, silicon root of trust, dynamic USB port



Your company rolls out 500 new laptops across its global offices. To speed things up, you outsourced imaging and hardware preparation to a third-party IT logistics vendor. They ship pre-configured machines directly to employees.

Within a few days, you receive several calls from the field stating:

- Multi-factor authentication (MFA) requests are being bypassed are not working properly.
- The security team sees a number unauthorized admin logins at odd hours.
- They also see virtual private network (VPN) traffic from users who are supposedly offline.

Test Your Knowledge \rightarrow





An employee reports receiving multi-factor authentication (MFA) push notifications when they were not attempting to log in. Your organization's security dashboard shows that the login originated from a device with a company-issued asset tag. What is the most logical first step for the security operations center (SOC) team?

Disable the user's account and wipe their laptop remotely

Compare the login IP and device fingerprint to other known compromised users

Escalate to HR assuming the user is at fault

Issue a company-wide alert to change passwords immediately





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- Issue a company-wide alert to change passwords immediately

When your SOC team determines if suspicious activity is part of a broader attack or an isolated attack to enable rapid pattern recognition, targeted incident response and containment of further risk is the logical first step when identifying a Supply Chain Hardware attack.





Your incident response team finds that multiple affected laptops are running SSD firmware versions that don't match official vendor release notes. Endpoint detection response (EDR) shows no malicious processes. What does this most likely indicate?

A configuration error from the IT vendor

A new type of ransomware that deletes itself

A firmware-level supply chain compromise

Normal behavior during imaging





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- × A new type of ransomware that deletes itself
- A firmware-level supply chain compromise
- Normal behavior during imaging

Unauthorized SSD firmware on multiple laptops, undetected by EDR and mismatched with official releases, indicates deliberate hardware or firmware tampering—a hallmark of a firmware-level supply chain compromise.





You've isolated 100 suspected devices with rogue SSD firmware. You need to decide how to move forward without tipping off the attacker, who may have remote access. What's the best next move?

Power down all devices and ship them to forensics

Conduct memory dumps live and investigate while systems are running

Notify the third-party vendor that they've been breached

Wipe all devices and reissue new laptops to all users globally





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Live memory dumps are crucial for preserving volatile evidence like active malware and rootkits, enabling targeted incident response by uncovering hidden threats and access points before they are lost or attackers are alerted.





Your Chief Information Security Officer asks for a summary of how this attack entered your environment. You need to present a concise explanation to the executive team. How should you explain the attack?

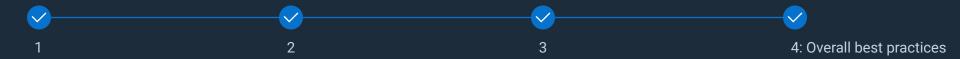
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We experienced a network misconfiguration that allowed external access

Malicious firmware was introduced through a compromised hardware vendor during laptop provisioning

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The mismatched firmware versions and absence of active malware confirm that this was a firmware-level attack originating from the vendor, not user error or misconfiguration.

See Solutions \rightarrow



ATTACK TYPE: SUPPLY CHAIN HARDWARE

Recap

Supply chain attacks have grown substantially in recent years. By tampering with physical devices during production, shipping, or deployment or finding weaknesses in software providers, attackers gain the means to inject malicious components or code, corrupt systems, or exfiltrate sensitive data. Victims can range from small businesses to global enterprises, with results including severe financial losses, compromised customer trust, and legal repercussions.

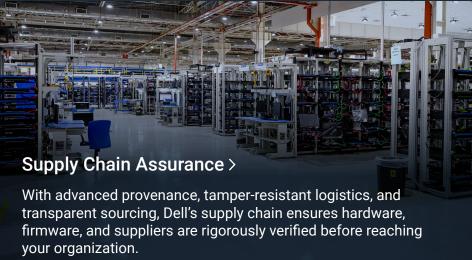
Dell mitigates Supply Chain Hardware attacks by integrating rigorous vendor risk assessments and embedding zero trust principles alongside continuous device validation and independent integrity checks. We fortify hardware integrity across its entire lifecycle.

Learn more about advanced cyber resilience strategies to see how Dell can help you safeguard your organization against Supply Chain Hardware attacks.

Explore Supply Chain Hardware Attacks Brief \rightarrow



命 Back to Scenarios









Comprehensive asset tracking, real-time monitoring of device provenance, and proactive integrity verification ensure rapid anomaly detection and fleet-wide security.



Your company provides cloud-based analytics software used by hospitals. Your backend services depend on a widely used open-source logging library maintained by a trusted third-party developer on GitHub.

Unbeknownst to your dev team, attackers compromised the GitHub account and inserted a malicious update that includes hidden code designed to:

- Exfiltrate environment variables, including application programing interface (API) keys and JavaScript object notation web tokens (JWT) secrets
- Create a reverse shell when specific IPs make requests
- Remain dormant unless triggered remotely

Test Your Knowledge \rightarrow





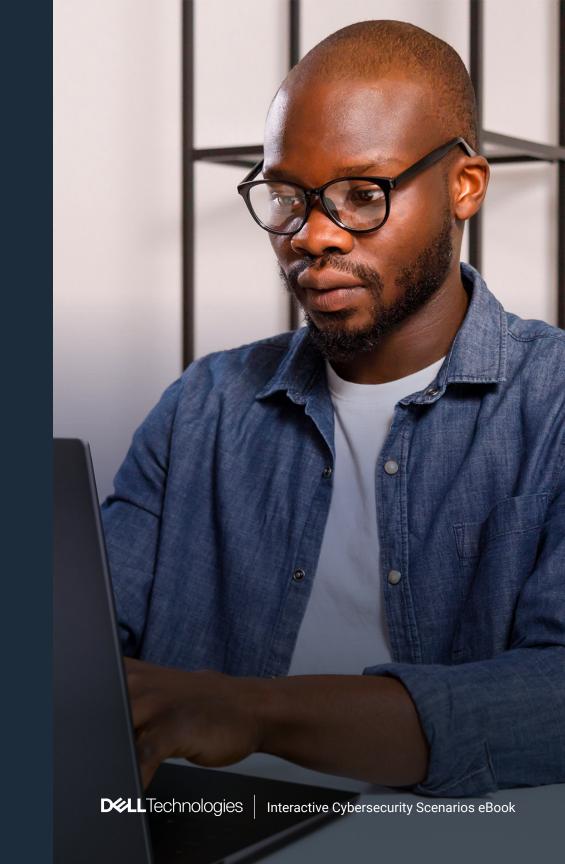
Your API suddenly starts returning 500 errors to key clients. Cloud monitoring flags outbound connections from your containerized services to a domain not previously seen. What is your first response?

Disable all outbound network traffic from containers

Reboot affected services to clear any memory issues

Check for recent code commits in your GitHub repo

Reach out to the domain's hosting provider



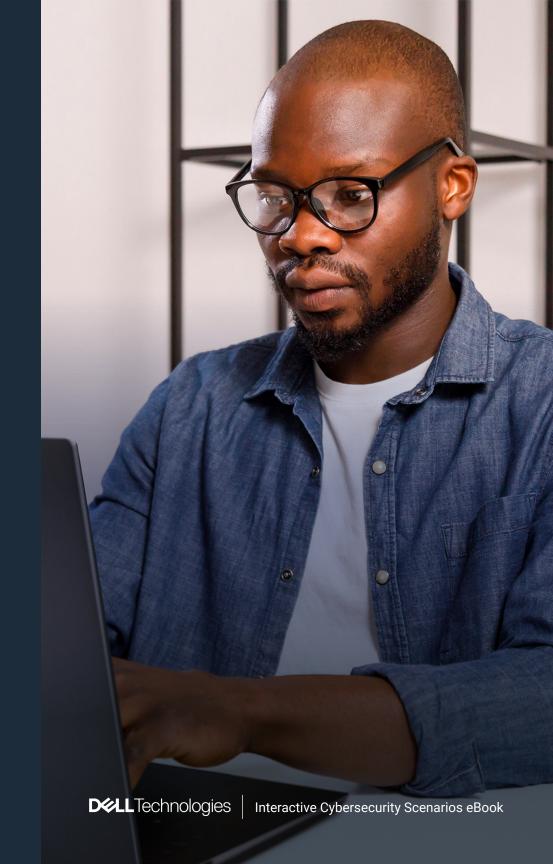


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Disabling all outbound network traffic from containers immediately blocks attackers from exfiltrating sensitive data or establishing remote access via the compromised logging library, isolating your environment in real time and buying critical time to investigate, safeguard API keys and secrets, and prevent activation of dormant attack mechanisms.

Next Question ightarrow





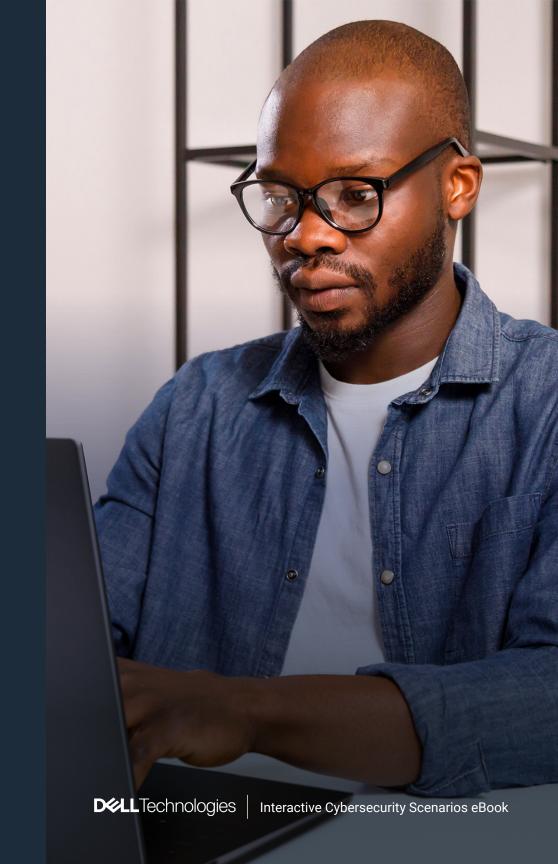
Your engineering lead confirms the application auto-pulled code from GitHub three days before the issues began. That version is not yet marked as malicious in any public databases. What's the most responsible immediate action?

Contact the library maintainer directly via GitHub

Delete all local project dependencies and rebuild

Wait for common vulnerabilities and exposures (CVE) before taking further action

Roll back to the last known safe version of code



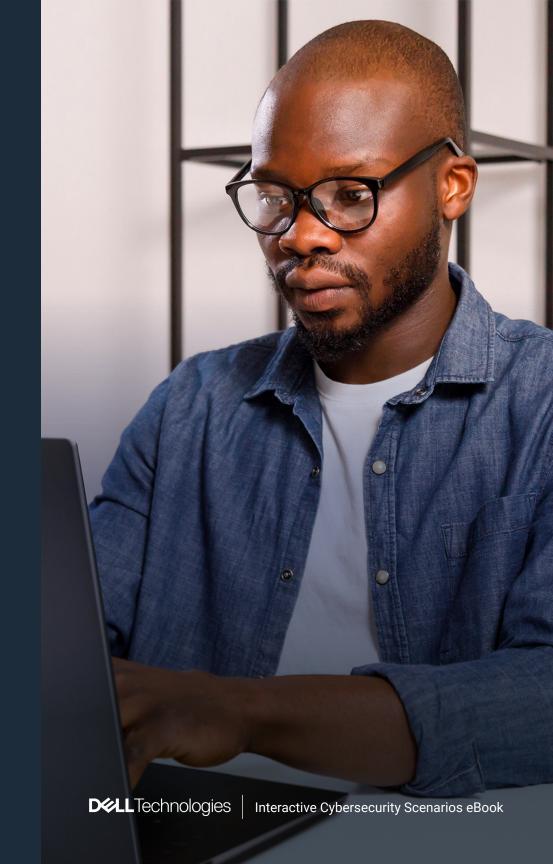


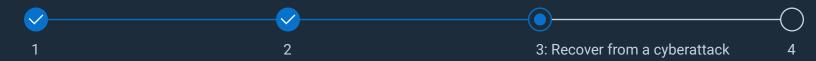
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Rolling back to the last known safe code version immediately removes the compromised update, eliminates the attacker's foothold, and restores operational integrity to proactively contain risk and protect sensitive data.

Next Question \rightarrow





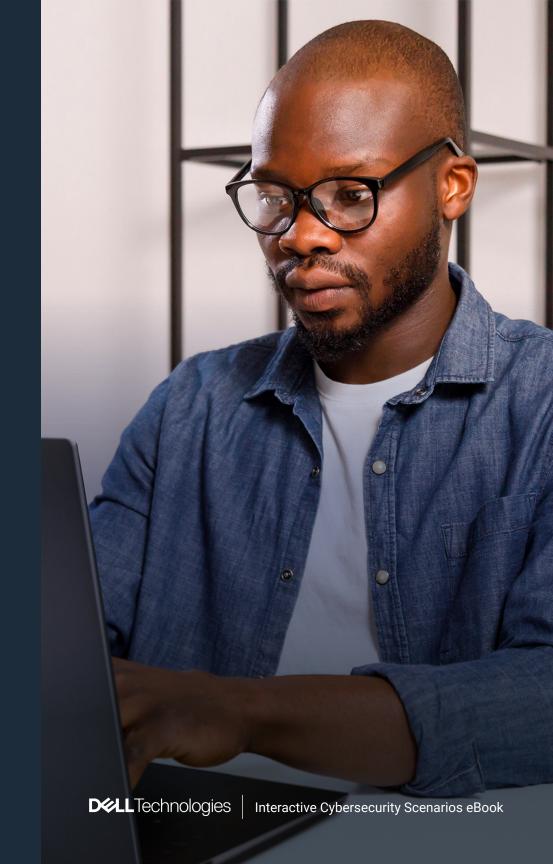
Analysis confirms the library was exfiltrating API keys and cloud credentials. You've identified multiple containers built with the compromised version. Which step is most critical in your containment strategy?

Revoke and rotate all credentials across affected environments

Reimage the containers using an updated operating system (OS) image

Wipe the development team's laptops

File a takedown notice for the GitHub repo





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Revoking and rotating credentials is the first critical step after a cloud compromise, blocking attackers from accessing services, halting data theft, and securing systems regardless of the breach's scope.

Next Question \rightarrow













4: Overall best practices

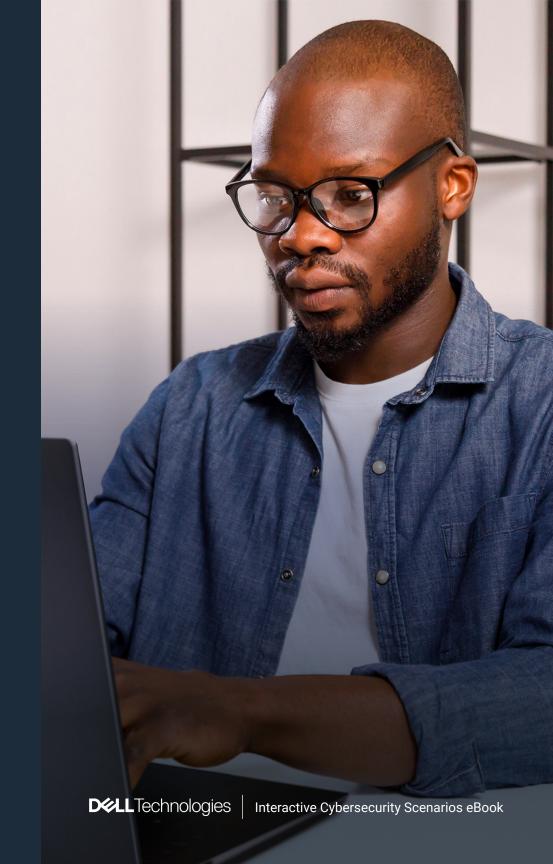
You're asked to explain what happened to your Chief Technology Officer and legal/compliance teams. What is the most accurate and clear explanation? How do you summarize the incident?

Our internal continuous integration and continuous deployment/delivery (CI/CD) tooling failed, allowing bad code to be deployed

A third-party software dependency was compromised, and our automation pulled it into production

A developer included untested code in a rushed release

An attacker brute-forced our GitHub repository











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The root cause was a supply chain attack: attackers compromised a third-party software dependency, and the automated build process pulled the malicious update directly into production, impacting application integrity and sensitive environments and highlighting the risk of malicious updates in trusted external dependencies.

See Solutions $\, o \,$



ATTACK TYPE: SUPPLY CHAIN SOFTWARE

Recap

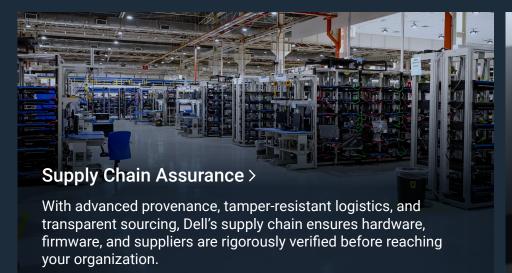
Supply chain software cyberattacks exploit vulnerabilities in software updates, third-party integrations, and development environments to embed malicious code that spreads across networks. These attacks can cause widespread data breaches, operational disruptions, and compromise entire ecosystems, impacting businesses of all sizes.

Dell is dedicated to cyber resilience by emphasizing transparency, secure development, and continuous monitoring while maintaining a robust incident response plan to ensure rapid recovery and stakeholder communication.

Learn more about advanced cyber resilience strategies and see how Dell can help you safeguard your organization against Supply Chain Software attacks.

Explore Supply Chain Software Attacks Brief $\, o \,$





Secure Development Lifecycle (SDL) >

Implements industry-leading secure development practices to reduce risks from third-party dependencies and prevent software-based attacks in delivered solutions.

Trusted Workspace and Trusted Infrastructure >

SafeBIOS, SafeID, and SafeDataDelivers hardware authentication help ensure that endpoints only run trusted code and provide rapid detection of unauthorized or malicious software modifications.



Asset Tracking and ProSupport Suite with SupportAssist > Real-time monitoring of device and software allow for swift detection and response to anomalies introduced through the

supply chain.



Uncover, block, and rapidly remediate software supply chain attacks, including those introduced via open-source or third-party code.

You're a security analyst monitoring a company's authentication logs. Recently, users have reported unauthorized access to their accounts, even though they haven't shared their credentials.

Upon investigating the logs, you find the following activity:

[INFO] 2025-04-02 14:05:12 - User Login - UserID: 1023 - IP: 192.168.1.15 - JWT Token Issued [INFO] 2025-04-02 14:07:35 - User Login - UserID: 1023 - IP: 5.62.60.12 - JWT Token Reused [INFO] 2025-04-02 14:08:00 - User Login - UserID: 1023 - IP: 203.0.113.45 - JWT Token Reused

At the same time, a security researcher identifies a vulnerability in the application programming interface (API):

- JavaScript object notation web tokens (JWT) never expire.
- Tokens are stored in local storage instead of HTTP-only cookies.
- No multi-factor authentication (MFA) is enforced.

Test Your Knowledge ightarrow





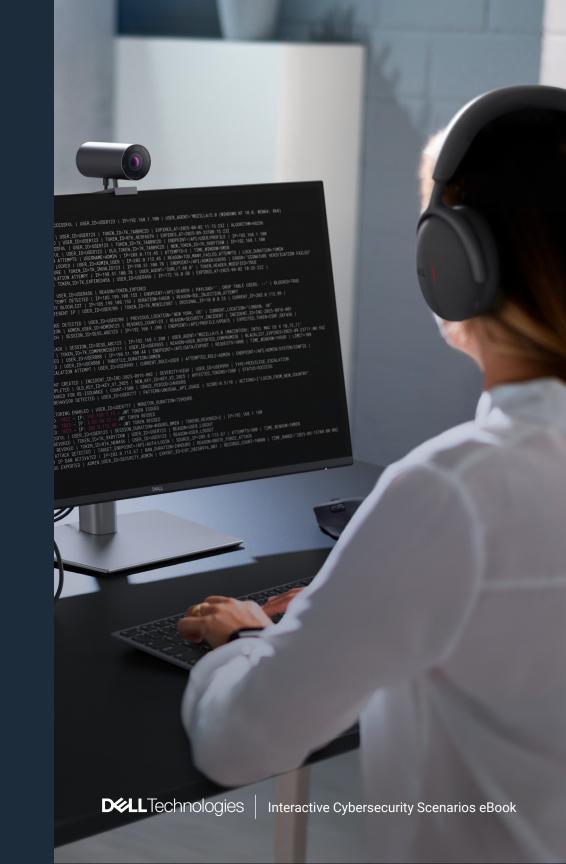
As a security team, since no warning bells went off you suspect this as a Zero-Day attack, how would you go about confirming this?

Log all users off their systems

Identify key anomalous authentication behaviors in logs

Call friends in other companies to see if they are having the same issue

Try to correlate with other security abnormal activity





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- Try to correlate with other security abnormal activity

Pinpointing anomalous authentication behaviors, like as unusual login times, credential reuse, or access from atypical devices, and correlating them with other abnormal security activity like data access anomalies or privilege escalation confirms a coordinated Zero-Day attack.

Next Question \rightarrow





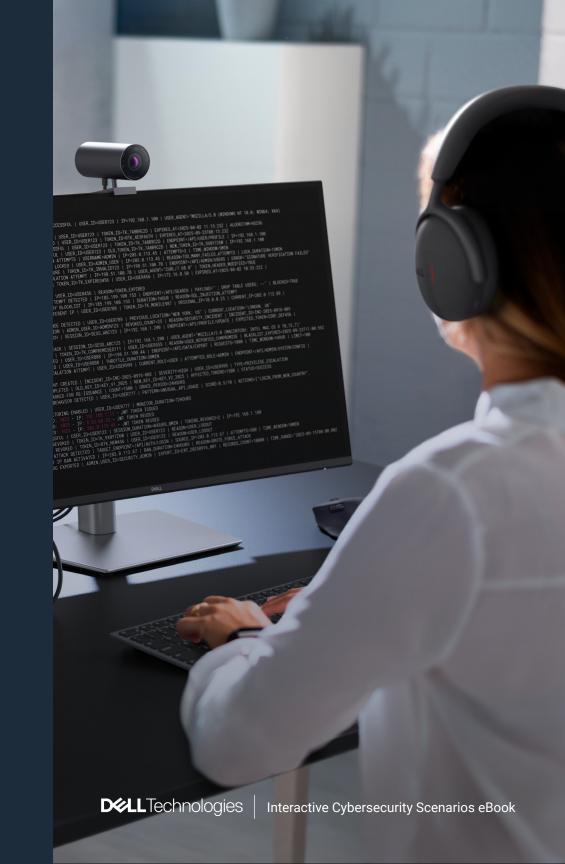
Since the vulnerability is unknown, security teams must limit damage while investigating. How would you go about doing this?

Invalidate all authentication sessions system-wide

Focus all resources on the point of entry of the attack

Enforce multi-factor authentication (MFA) logins only

Rely on current static firewalls or web application firewall (WAF) rules





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Together, these actions strengthen security and minimize risk while cutting off attacker access so security teams can investigate and resolve the underlying vulnerability.

Next Question \rightarrow





Dell PCs have technologies such as Secure Boot, trusted platform modules (TPM), basic input/output system (BIOS) Password Protection, and SafeBIOS. How can these help in a Zero-Day attack?

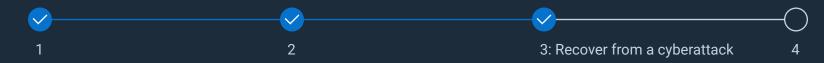
Protects against credential dumping attacks that steal application programming interface (API) tokens

Prevents an attacker with physical access from bypassing operating system (OS) security to install malware that steals authentication tokens

Ensures that attackers cannot manipulate BIOS settings to weaken OS security, which could lead to API session hijacking

All of the above





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- Prevents an attacker with physical access from bypassing operating system (OS) security to install malware that steals authentication tokens
- Ensures that attackers cannot manipulate BIOS settings to weaken OS security, which could lead to API session hijacking
- ✓ All of the above

This layered approach provides comprehensive protection against Zero-Day attacks targeting BIOS, firmware, credentials, and system configurations. By preventing manipulation, unauthorized access, and credential theft, these technologies remain effective even when new vulnerabilities are discovered by attackers.

Next Question ightarrow











4: Overall best practices

What is the best way to try to prevent Zero-Day attacks from happening?

Don't use open-source software

Leverage zero trust principles

Keep everything patched including operating systems (OS), firmware, application programming interfaces (APIs), libraries, and containers

Put up an electrified gate around the company to keep the threat actors out

See The Correct Answer $\, o \,$











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- Leverage zero trust principles
- Keep everything patched including operating systems (OS), firmware, application programming interfaces (APIs), libraries, and containers
- Put up an electrified gate around the company to keep the threat actors out

If unknown vulnerabilities or unpatched systems exist, zero trust principles prevent Zero-Day attacks by removing implicit trust from users and devices, enforcing continuous authentication, restricting access to necessary information only, and containing adversary movement to significantly reduce organizational risk from undiscovered threats.

See Solutions \rightarrow



ATTACK TYPE: ZERO-DAY

Recap

A Zero-Day attack involves exploiting an undisclosed security vulnerability in software or hardware before a patch or fix is available. Attackers take advantage of the window of opportunity, often causing widespread disruption before the vulnerability is discovered and addressed.

Dell tackles Zero-Day attacks with zero trust controls, network segmentation, rapid containment, and user education further strengthening defenses against emerging threats.

Learn more about advanced cyber resilience strategies and see how Dell can help you safeguard your organization against Zero-Day attacks.

Explore Zero-Day Attacks Brief \rightarrow



