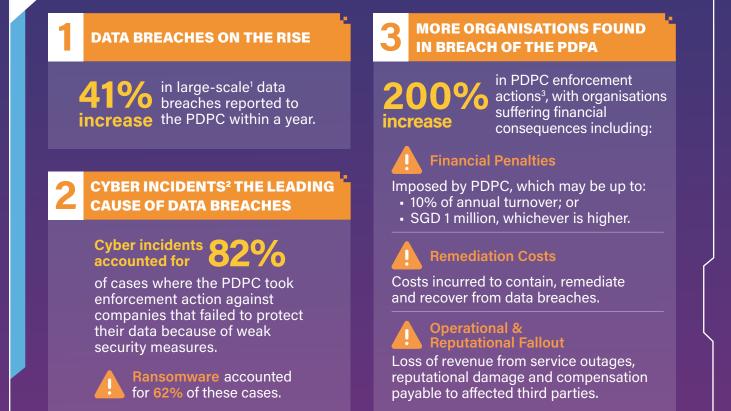


# SINGAPORE'S DATA BREACH LANDSCAPE 2023/24

Data breaches have become a pressing global concern, with threat actors using ever-sophisticated tactics to exploit vulnerabilities and exfiltrating companies' and consumers data. This report provides an overview of the data breach landscape in Singapore **from January 2023 to December 2024**, focusing on key trends, observations and practical advice on how breaches can be mitigated.

## **KEY TRENDS**



<sup>1</sup> Data breaches affecting more than 500 individuals.

<sup>2</sup> Any event that involves unauthorised access to computer systems, networks or digital devices that may result in data exfiltration, such as through ransomware and phishing attacks.

<sup>3</sup> Refers to financial penalities, voluntary undertakings or directions issued by the PDPC against organisations that have failed to comply with the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA).

## **B.E.S.T. MEASURES TO MITIGATE DATA BREACHES**





Back up data regularly and securely offsite for restoration purposes.



**Encrypt** sensitive data (at rest and in transit) to protect them from hackers.



Strengthen access controls (e.g., strong passwords and multifactor authentication) to reduce risk of unauthorised access.



Track data assets and ensure timely maintenance of systems with upgrades and patches to address vulnerabilities quickly.

### **CASE STUDY**

Organisation X suffered a data breach impacting over 2 million user accounts when a malicious actor exploited a security vulnerability in its database. The breach was found to be a result of inadequate security measures, allowing the attacker to access and exfiltrate personal data, which was later found for sale on the Dark Web. The organisation was also fined by the PDPC for failing to implement reasonable security measures.

#### WHAT COULD BEEN DONE BETTER?



Encrypting sensitive data stored within the affected database.





Tracking assets during data migration and ensuring that servers storing personal data are protected at all times.

As a best practice, the organisation should also implement adequate controls and processes outlined in the PDPC's **Guide on Data Protection** Practices for ICT Systems.



What should you do when a data breach occurs?



https://go.gov.sg/dbn-guide

Looking for the right solutions to fit your business needs?



https://go.gov.sg/dpo-ctoaas