



# Continuing to Adapt Navigating the Evolving Threat of Ransomware

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# Scope of responsibility



**TELUS**  
Business

Managing security  
for our business  
customers

**TELUS**  
Health

Healthcare tech  
serving 68 million  
people

**TELUS**

35k employees and  
18 million telecom  
customer  
connections

**TELUS**  
Agriculture &  
Consumer Goods

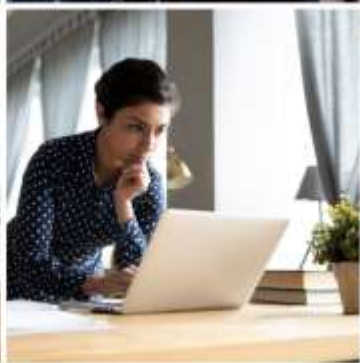
Supporting 100M  
acres of agricultural  
land

**TELUS**  
International

73k employees,  
operating in 30  
countries



Keys to a successful  
technology  
transformation journey



# Our experience in 2023 - volumes and trends

**29 trillion**

(2X increase since 2020)

Reconnaissance scans against the TELUS network in search of opportunities to attack

**65 quadrillion**

(5X increase since 2020)

Bits of online traffic attempting to cause outages

**1 billion**

Email attacks blocked in 2023

▲ 200M since 2020

**4 billion**

(3X increase since 2020)

Attacks targeting TELUS websites

**3.5 billion**

(2X since 2020)

Attacks attempting to infect TELUS systems with malicious software

Scanning

DDOS

VPN

DLP

EDR

WAF

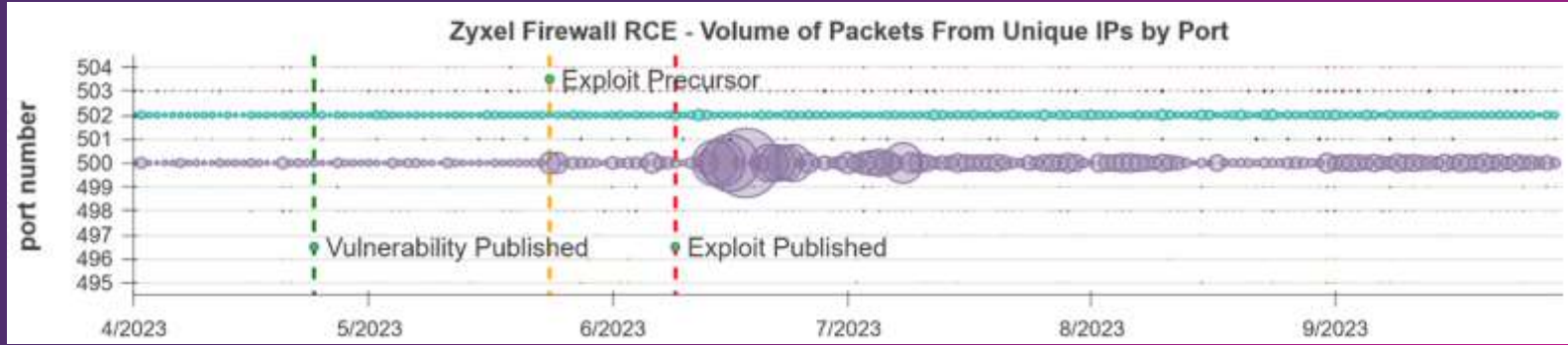
Firewalls

IDS/IPS

SSE

# Our experience in 2023

Scanning  
behavior  
during  
vulnerability  
timeline

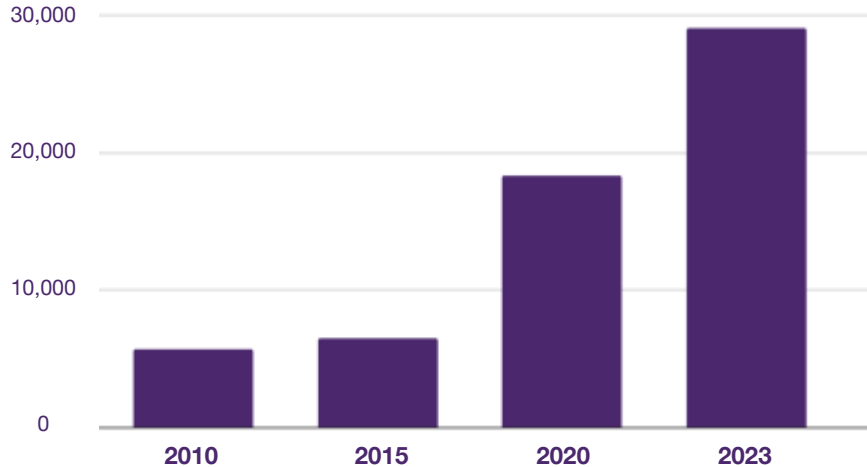


Source: TELUS internal

Published exploit for remote unauthenticated command injection in Internet Key Exchange (IKE) packet decoder over UDP port 500  
CVE-2023-28771

# All trends point to an increasingly challenging environment

Published CVEs  
Defects in software products



Source: Statista

TELUS saw an 110% increase in critical vulnerabilities in 2023

## Breakout Time

2021	98 mins	
2022	84 mins	-14%

Source: IBM X-Force Threat Intelligence Index 2024

## Ransomware deployment timeline

2019	60+ days
2020	9.5 days
2023	~3.9 days

Source: 2023 CrowdStrike Threat Report

TELUS observed attempted ransomware deployment in as little as 2 days in 2023

# All trends point to an increasingly challenging environment

Increasing number of attacks

YoY growth in vulnerabilities

Speed of exploit

**83%**

experienced attempted ransomware attacks\*

## Top vectors

Misconfigs  
Email  
Known vulnerabilities  
Zero-day  
3rd party

**143%** increase in incidents in Q1 2023\*\*

**93%** increase in data exfiltration attacks 2019 to 2022\*\*

**2.5x**

increase in likelihood of paying ransom for attacks involving data exfiltration\*\*

24% took weeks to months to contain\*

Breaches that are not detected and contained quickly can be 1000x more expensive\*\*

\*Source: 2022 TELUS Canadian Ransomware Study  
\*\*Source: 2023 Cyber Trends Study, Allianz





**TELUS** Business

# Experiences from the field

**Bobby Joe Donovan**  
Farm Manager and Equipment operator,  
Wintara Farms  
Mossleigh, Alberta

Family grain farm



# Experiences from the field: social engineering

1

Email, SMS or call directing employee to a company SSO page

2

Employee enters credentials/OTP or receives multiple MFA requests

3

TA uses credentials to login and take over employee account

4

Reconnaissance of business processes, documents and systems

5

Objectives / Data exfiltration and / or ransomware deployment

IT Helpdesk support ticket

Offers of money

Threats of physical violence

Key learnings

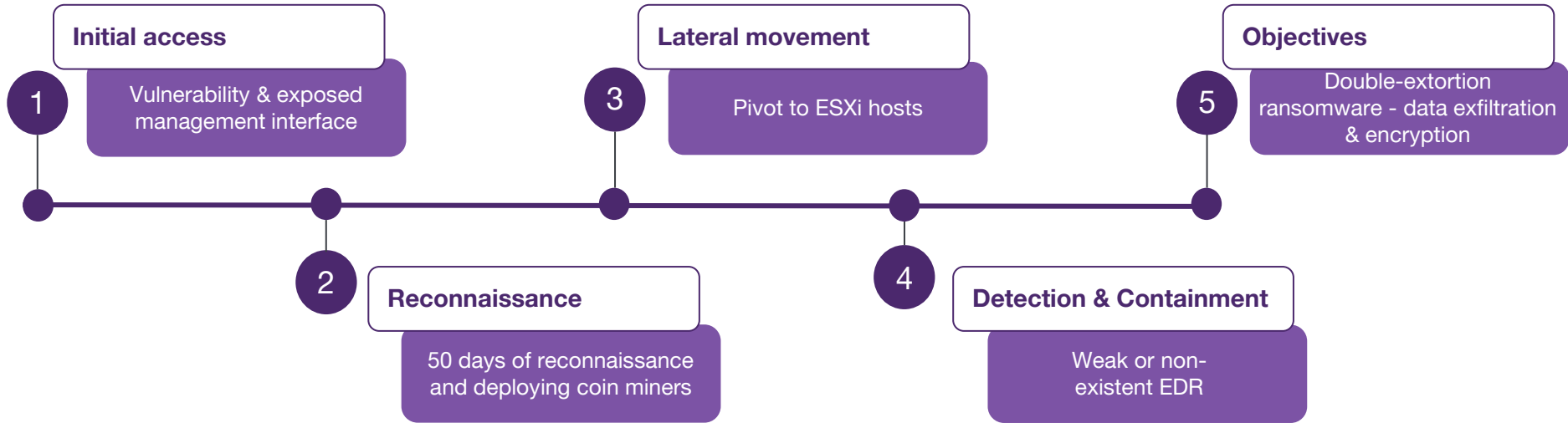
Phishing-resistant 2FA

Human firewall and security awareness training

Threat intelligence & awareness

Detections focused on identity

# Experiences from the field: unpatched vulnerabilities



## Key learnings

Unpatched vulnerabilities

Disaster Recovery plans for bare metal (in timely fashion)

Endpoint protection

Network misconfigs

Segmented network security

# Experiences from the field: the third party factor

## Zero day vulnerability

- Clop group exploited zero-day vulnerability against internet-facing systems running MOVEit file transfer software
- Data was exfiltrated and used for extortion

**2700**

organizations impacted,  
many of them as third or  
fourth parties

## Impact

Managing multiple  
concurrent incidents added  
strain to responding teams

**84 million**

people impacted

**\$100M**

estimated in ransoms  
paid

## Key learnings

Threat intelligence  
& monitoring of  
partners

Third party /  
supplier security  
program

Data mapping  
and  
awareness

Incident response  
plans for multiple,  
concurrent ransoms

# Organizations need to be cyber resilient

A cyber resilience strategy gives you the ability to withstand and recover from cyber attacks.

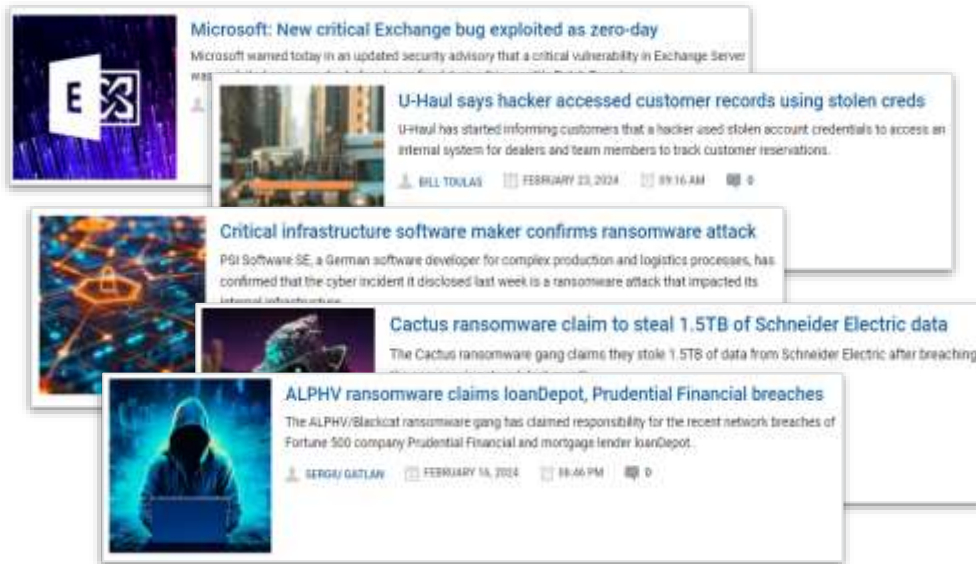
It requires:

## Proactive measures

Continuous monitoring, threat intelligence gathering, regular testing and updating security measures

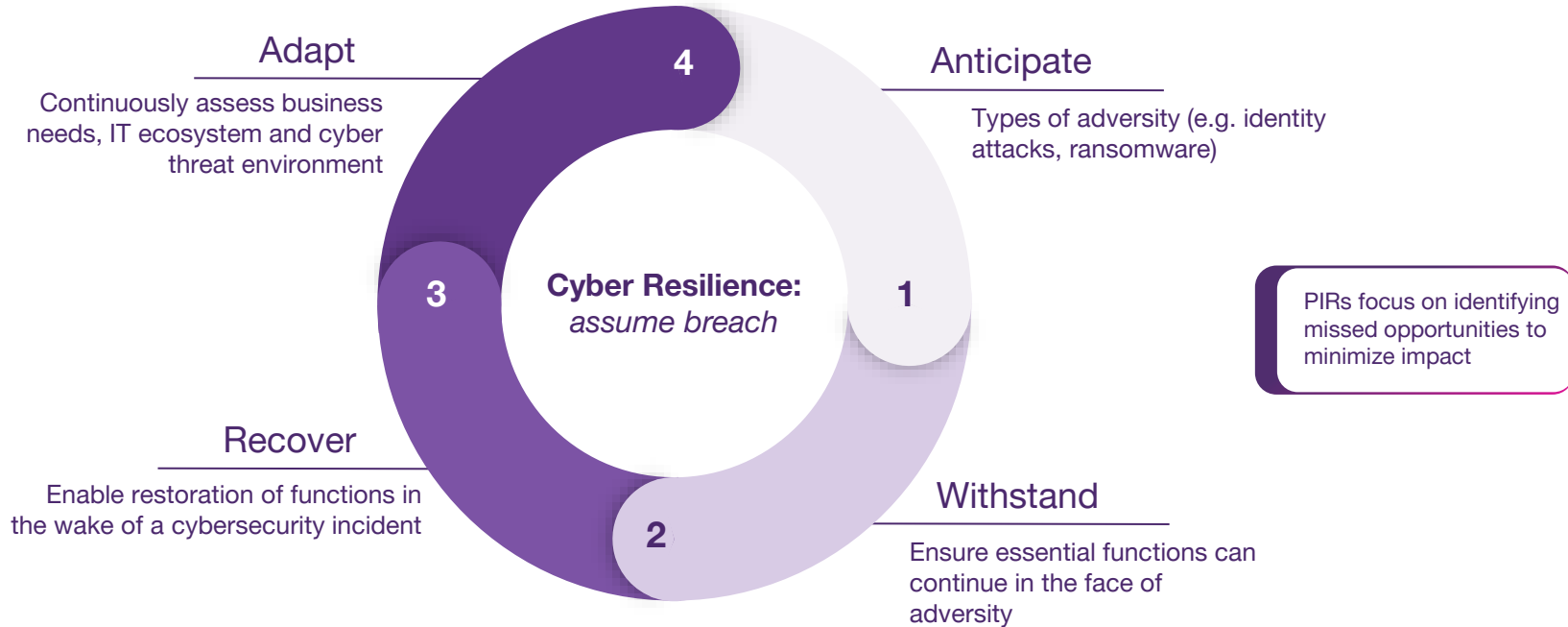
## Reactive Strategies

Restoring systems and service, mitigating effects of attacks, relying on incident response and backups to minimize downtime, and financial loss



As evidenced by daily news stories, organizations cannot always prevent attacks - however, they can minimize the impact of attacks that manage to bypass their defense systems

# Adapting to this new normal requires a shift in mindset



**Cyber resilience** is the ability of an organization to withstand, adapt to, and recover from cyber attacks while maintaining essential functions and protecting critical assets.

# Maintain a solid foundation of core controls as you evolve towards cyber resilience

## Core security controls

Good hygiene and controls that align to modern defense-in-depth and secure-by-design principles

## Cyber resilience

Limiting impact from ransomware by adopting strategies to anticipate and recover quickly

## Evolving threat landscape

Degrading threat landscape with increasing attack surface, traffic and decreasing exploit time



# TELUS Canadian market research



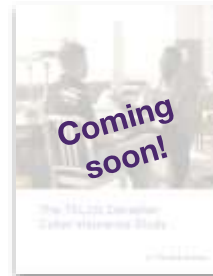
The **TELUS Canadian Ransomware Study** shares insights about how Canadian organizations are tackling the challenge of ransomware.

[telus.com/RansomwareStudy](https://telus.com/RansomwareStudy)



The **TELUS Canadian Cloud Security Study** shares insights on the security challenges of cloud adoption amongst Canadian organizations.

[telus.com/CloudSecurityStudy](https://telus.com/CloudSecurityStudy)



The **TELUS Canadian Cyber Insurance Study** shares the realities of obtaining and maintaining insurance plus the outcomes of submitting a claim.

[telus.com/CyberInsuranceStudy](https://telus.com/CyberInsuranceStudy)



Studies can also be downloaded using this QR code

Thank you