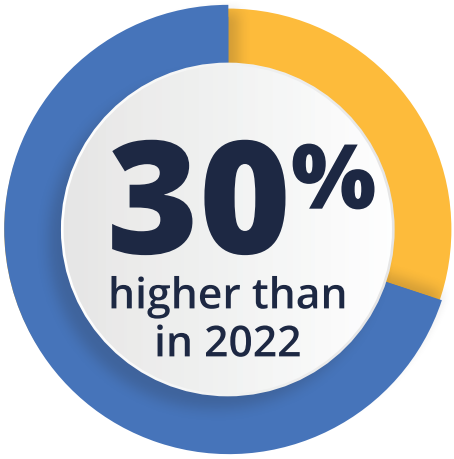
ThreatQ for Government Agencies

International government agencies serve as the backbone of our societal infrastructure, entrusted with safeguarding sensitive data and facilitating seamless operations across various sectors. However, this pivotal role also makes them prime targets for a myriad of threats ranging from cybercriminals to politically motivated entities and even state-sponsored actors from abroad.

Among the key challenges they confront are ransomware attacks, which can cripple operations and hold vital data hostage, denying access until exorbitant demands are met. Denial-of-service (DoS) attacks pose another formidable threat, disrupting services and causing widespread chaos by overwhelming systems with malicious traffic. Moreover, the integrity of critical national infrastructure hangs in the balance, as adversaries seek to exploit vulnerabilities and undermine the very foundations of societal functioning. As governments strive to uphold security and stability in the digital age, safeguarding against these multifaceted threats emerges as an urgent imperative.



Computer attacks for extortion purposes also remained at a high level in 2023 was reported to ANSSI.[2]

KEY CHALLENGES

Ransomware

Ransomware is and remains the greatest threat[1]. These cyber attacks against government agencies happen for many reasons. Breached confidential information could mean leaked personal information from public records. Using old and outdated security software could result in catastrophe for public led services, processes and operations. While governments that are forced to pay a ransom could wind up losing trust from their citizens.

The French government is ramping up cyber defences after experiencing ransomware attacks. In December 2022, A cyber attack at a hospital in Versailles caused major damage and led to operations being cancelled and some patients being transferred to other locations.[3]

Denial-of-Service

Attacks through denial-of-service operations. According to Spiceworks, A hacker group called Anonymous Sudan, which has long been considered pro-Russia, has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which were denial-of-service operations that occur by flooding a website with data to overwhelm its operational capacity. [4] The group has already attacked several targets in 2023, including the Israeli

Prime Minister and the Swedish SAS Airlines.

In March 2023, France's National Assembly website was hit with a distributed denial-of-service attack claimed by pro-Russian hackers.[5]

Computer attacks for extortion purposes also remained at a high level in 2023, as evidenced by the total number of ransomware attacks reported to ANSSI, which was 30% higher than over the same period in 2022. This upsurge breaks with the decrease observed by the Agency in the previous Cyber Threat Overview.[2]

Protecting Critical National Infrastructure

Critical National Infrastructure depends on a secure government network. Without the proper cyber defence plan put into place, this sector could face many potential threats.

The UK energy sector faces an expanding OT threat landscape: With the increase in attacks on the energy sector and the impact of the war in Ukraine on this sector, the need to collaborate on intelligence may be essential.[6]

After uncovering a potential cyber attack on countless Internet servers, the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) asked IT managers to take countermeasures. In an official security warning, the BSI spoke of a "critical backdoor" in the Linux operating system that had to be closed.[7]

A global study across 14 countries highlights that ransomware attacks on state and local governments have increased from 58% to 69% year over year.[1]

76% of ransomware attacks on government institutions in 2023 were successful.[1]

RESOLUTIONS

Multiple international government agencies have put into place some strategic objectives :

DORA :

- https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/nis2-directive
- https://advisense.com/2024/02/15/introduction-of-nis-2/

NIS 2 :

- https://www.digital-operational-resilience-act.com/
- https://www.eiopa.europa.eu/digital-operational-resilience-act-dora_en

NCA :

- https://nca.gov.sa/en/news?item=1073
- https://nca.gov.sa/en/news?item=1054

CREATING A LEADING THREAT INTELLIGENCE OPERATION

A robust threat intelligence platform gives international government agencies the prioritization, contextual awareness and real-time insight necessary to accelerate detection, collaborate on response, accelerate recovery and achieve a rapid response. The ThreatQ Platform fully integrates with already-in-place threat feeds and SIEM systems to maximize existing resources – staff and technology. With ThreatQ, security staff gain the ability to prioritize vulnerability mitigation by addressing vulnerabilities in relation to currently active exploits.

ACHIEVE MORE WITH THREATQ:

- **CONSOLIDATE** all (structured or unstructured) sources of external (e.g., DHS-AIS, and OSINT feeds) and internal (e.g., SIEM) threat intelligence and vulnerability data.
- **ACHIEVE** situational awareness of the entire infrastructure (on-premises, cloud, IoT, mobile and legacy systems) by integrating vulnerability data and threat intelligence in context of active threats.
- **ELIMINATE** alert fatigue by providing context and prioritization to threat intelligence.
- **PRIORITIZE** response for government agencies by cutting through the noise and focusing on what matters most to government agencies.
- **PROACTIVELY HUNT** for malicious activity which may cause significant harm to constituent records.
- **FOCUS** beyond protection to include detection, response and recovery.
- **ACCELERATE ANALYSIS AND RESPONSE** to attacks through collaborative threat analysis that accelerates understanding, facilitates multi-agency interaction and dramatically improves response.
- **AUTOMATICALLY** push relevant threat intelligence to detection and response tools.

> It requires intensive **information sharing** and coordinated action to successfully counter threats from cyberspace. That is why the **federal and state governments** must work together to counter these dangers.[8]

Request a live demo of the ThreatQ Platform and ThreatQ TDR Orchestrator at www.threatq.com/demo.

1. ProLion - https://prolion.com/blog/ransomware-government/#:~:text=Ransomware%20Attacks%20on%20Governments%20Are%20on%20the%20Rise,-In%20the%20U.S.&text=But%20it's%20not%20just%20the,to%2069%25%20year%20over%20year.
2. République Francaise - https://cyber.gouv.fr/en/actualites/anssi-publishes-2023-cyber-threat-overview
3. TECHERATI - https://www.techerati.com/news-hub/french-government-departments-hit-by-unprecedented-cyberattacks/
4. Spiceworks - https://www.spiceworks.com/it-security/cyber-risk-management/news/massive-cyberattack-targets-french-government-services/
5. Politico - https://www.politico.eu/article/french-national-assembly-website-russian-cyberattack-hack-kremlin-emmanuel-macron/
6. SecurityIntelligence - https://securityintelligence.com/articles/uk-energy-expanding-ot-threat-landscape/
7. GERMANY & WORLD - https://www.saechsische.de/deutschland-welt
8. Federal Office of Information Security - https://www.bsi.bund.de/EN/Service-Navi/Publikationen/Lagebericht/lagebericht_node.html

ABOUT THREATQUOTIENT™

ThreatQuotient improves security operations by fusing together disparate data sources, tools and teams to accelerate threat detection, investigation and response (TDIR). ThreatQ is the first purpose-built, data-driven threat intelligence platform that helps teams prioritize, automate and collaborate on security incidents; enables more focused decision making; and maximizes limited resources by integrating existing processes and technologies into a unified workspace. The result is reduced noise, clear priority threats, and the ability to automate processes with high fidelity data.

ThreatQuotient's industry leading integration marketplace, data management, orchestration and automation (SOAR) capabilities support multiple use cases including threat intelligence management and sharing, incident response, threat hunting, spear phishing, alert triage and vulnerability management. ThreatQuotient is headquartered in Northern Virginia with international operations based out of Europe, MENA and APAC.

For more information, visit www.threatq.com.