

Data Breach Root Cause in 3 categories

Human Error



23%

of the 3 major categories for root causes was **caused by human error**. Averaging a **total cost of US\$ 3.33 million**

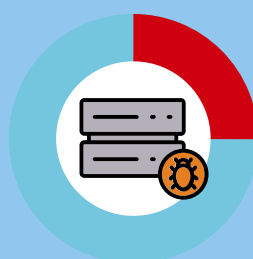
Malicious Attack



52%

of incidents involved **a malicious attack**. Averaging a **total cost of US\$ 4.27 million**

System Glitch



25%

were caused by **system glitches**. Averaging a **total cost of US\$ 3.38 million**



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Source: IBM Security 'Cost of a Data Breach Report 2020'



Industries varied in breakdown of data breach root causes

1

Highest in Malicious Attacks

59%

Technology, transportation, retail and financial ranging between 56-59%

2

Highest in Human Error

34%

Entertainment, public sector and consumer industries ranging between 28-34%

3

Highest in System Glitches

33%

Research, public sector and transportation ranging between 29-33%

Source: IBM Security 'Cost of a Data Breach Report 2020'



The share of breaches caused by malicious attacks steadily increased over time. From 42% in the 2014 report to 52% in the 2020 report. This 10 percentage point increase represents a nearly 24% increase (growth rate) in the share of breaches caused by malicious attacks.



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Source: IBM Security 'Cost of a Data Breach Report 2020'



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