

May 2024

# Busting privacy-related cyber security myths

Privacy Week with CERT NZ

# About CERT NZ

CERT NZ is a government cyber security agency which helps people affected by cyber issues.

CERT NZ provides the following services:

- incident response for people and businesses affected by cyber incidents
- resources to raise understanding of cyber security, such as the Own Your Online website
- stop-at-source scam prevention initiatives with industry partners
- data and insights to help respond to emerging cyber threats.

# What's the relationship between cyber and privacy?

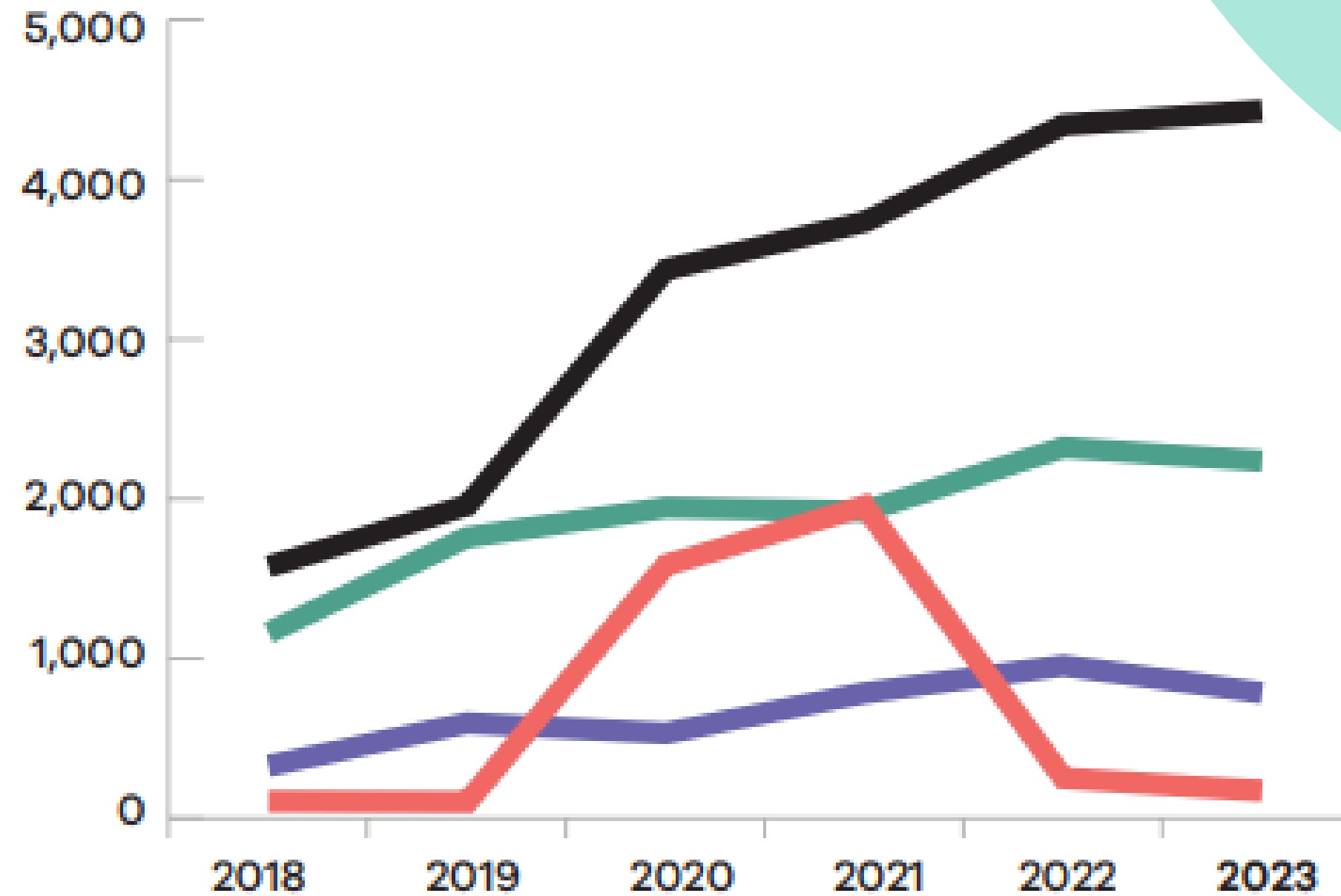
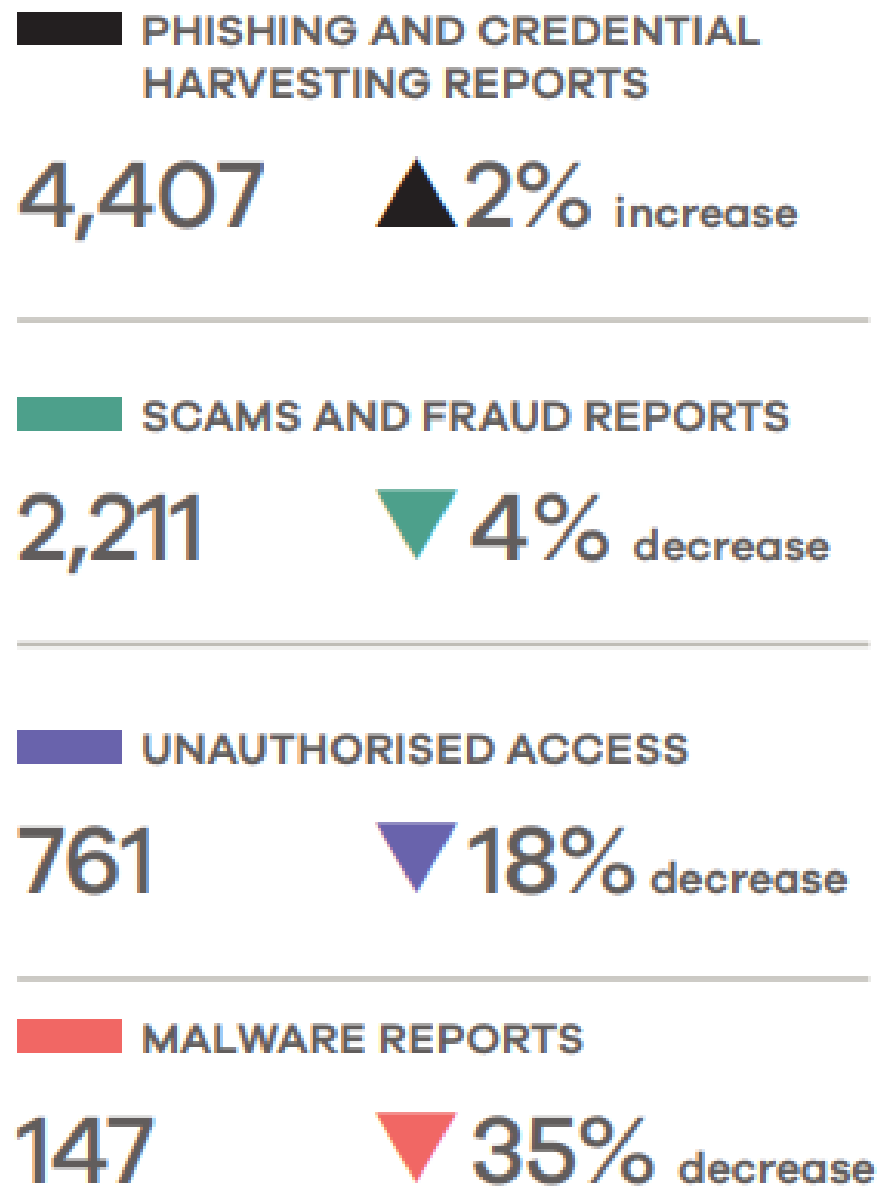
1. Organisations collecting and holding personal information have privacy obligations under the Privacy Act 2020.
2. Strong cyber security practices can help organisations meet their privacy obligations.
3. Cyber attacks can result in information leaks and data breaches – which can also breach privacy.

# What are some cyber security myths?

1. Cyber- attackers are only targeting big, high value organisations.
2. Systems and software are the only defences businesses need to invest in.
3. Impacts from cyber threats are inevitable and unavoidable.

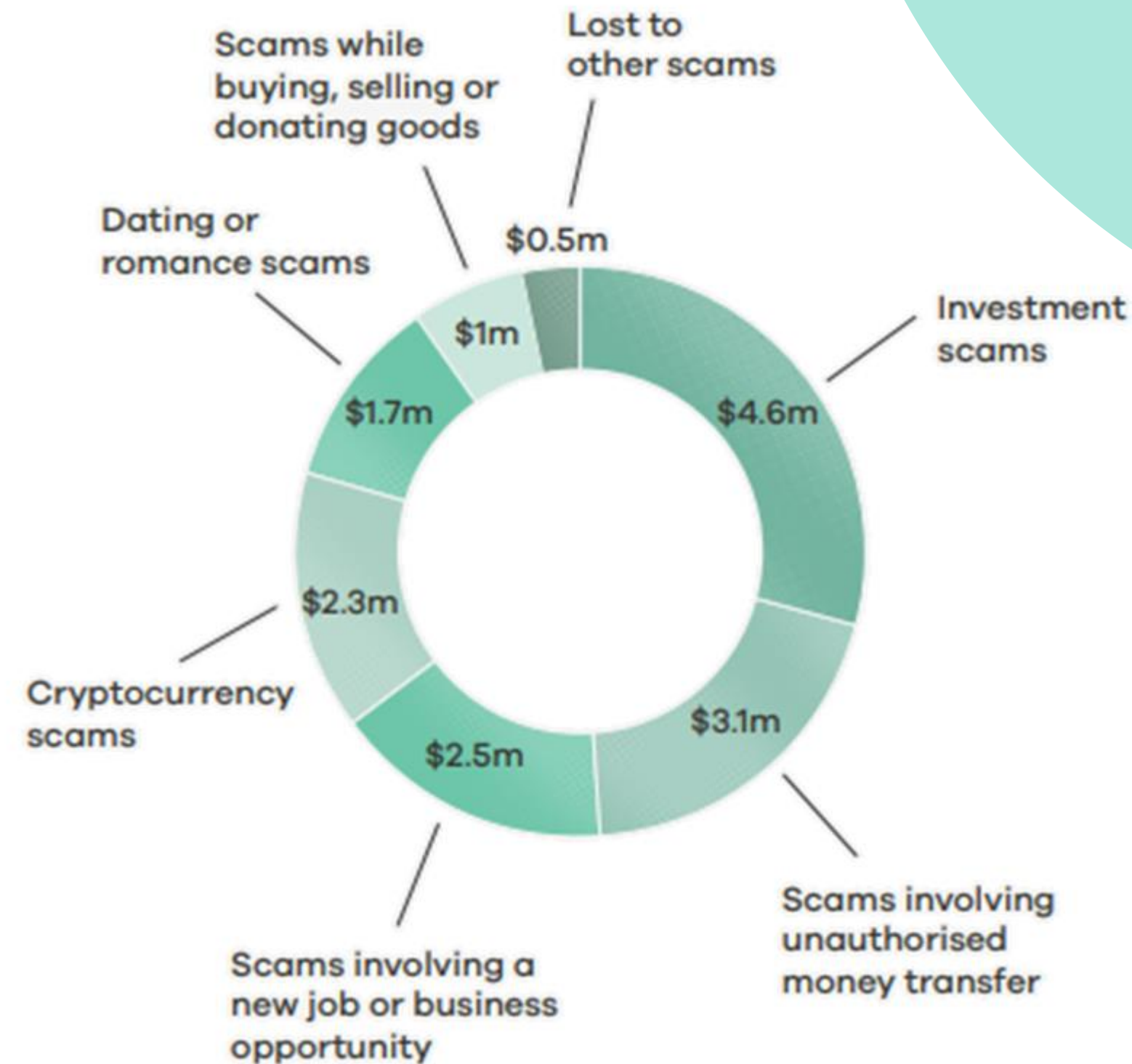
# Who are cyber attackers targeting, and how?

# Most reported issues in 2023

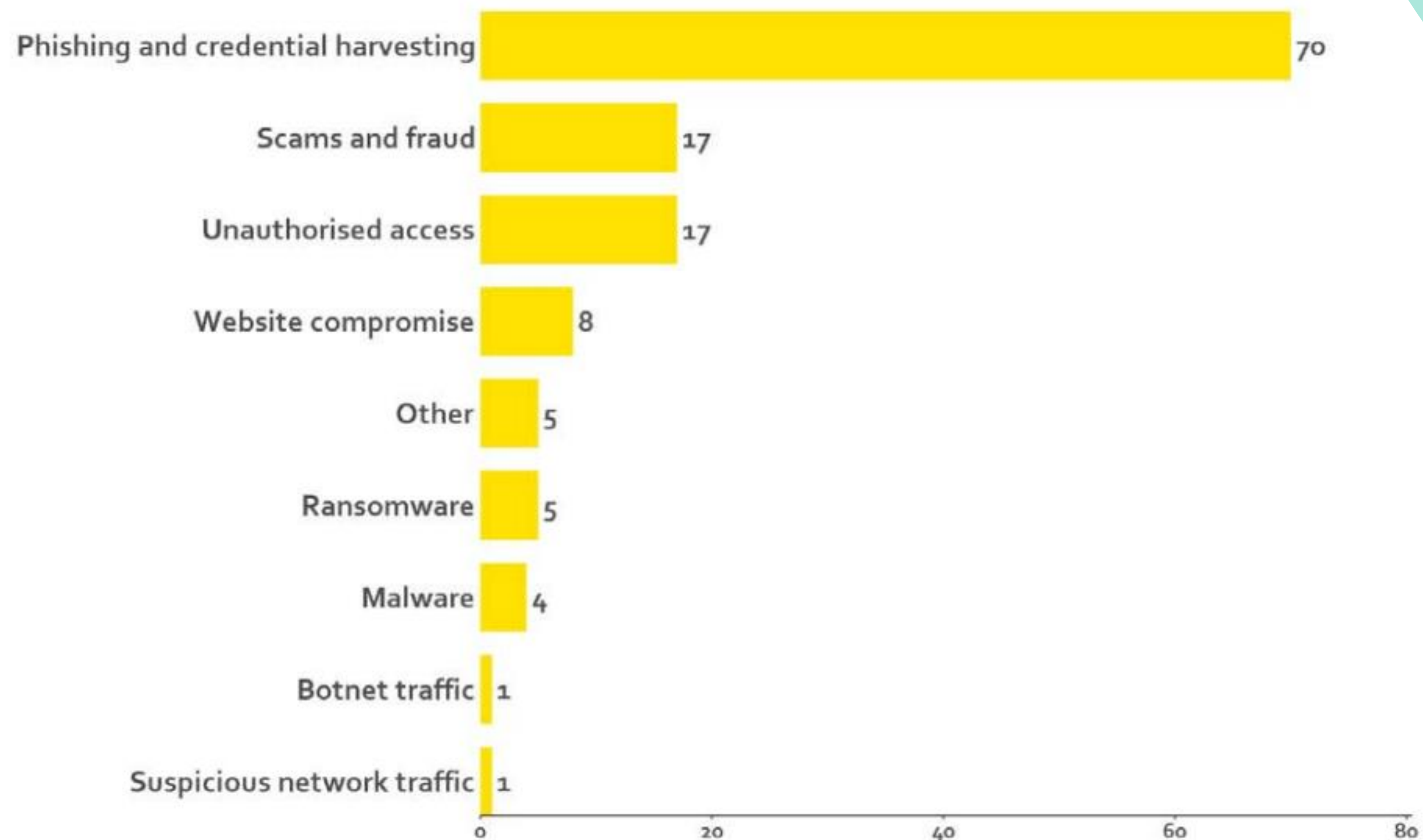


# Financial loss in 2023

- Scams and fraud accounted for 86% of loss: \$15.7 million.
- Less than 20% (\$3.1 million) was from unauthorised transfers.
- The rest resulted from people being tricked into transferring money.
- Investment scams caused the highest losses.

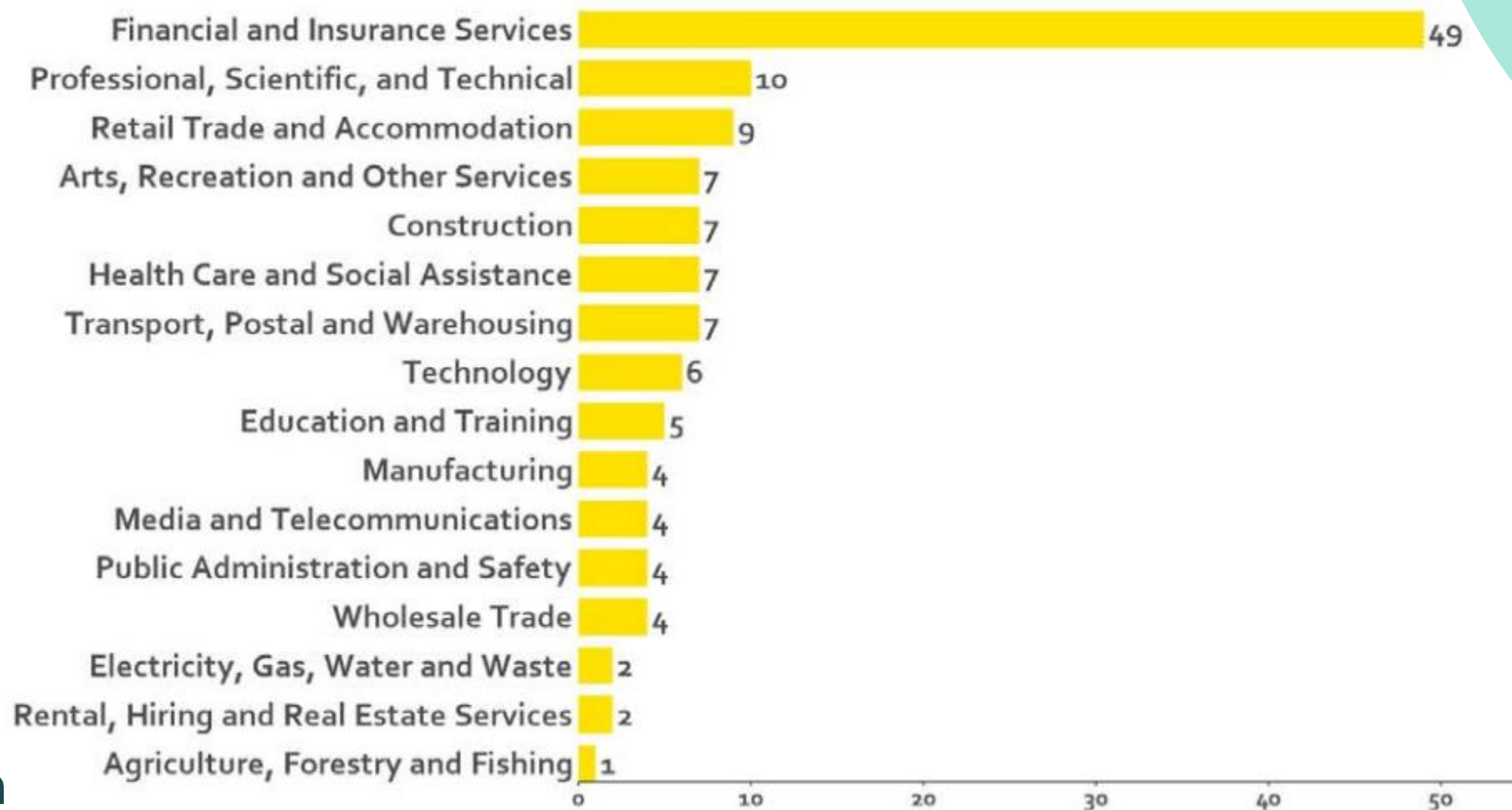


# Breakdown of incidents affecting organisations in Q4 2023



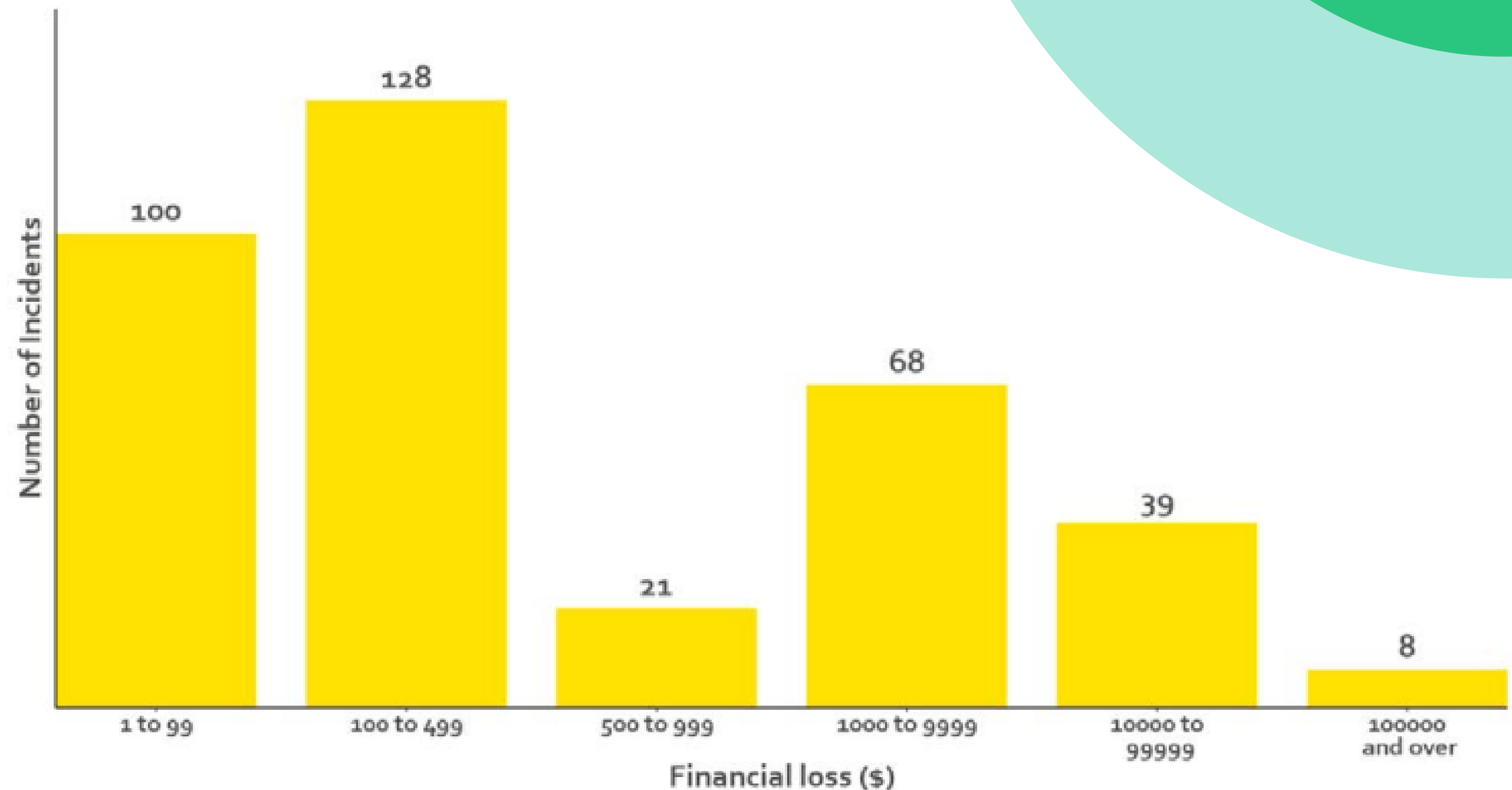


# Reporting by sector in Q4 2023



# Types of losses in Q4 2023

- 364 reports of financial loss.
- 60 reports of data loss
- 14 reports of reputation loss
- 14 reports of operational impacts.
- <10 reports of technical damage



# What cyber threats may businesses encounter?

# Phishing and credential harvesting

Phishing is a type of email scam, where the sender pretends to be a trustworthy person or organisation to try to get you to give them personal information, like the login details for your internet banking.



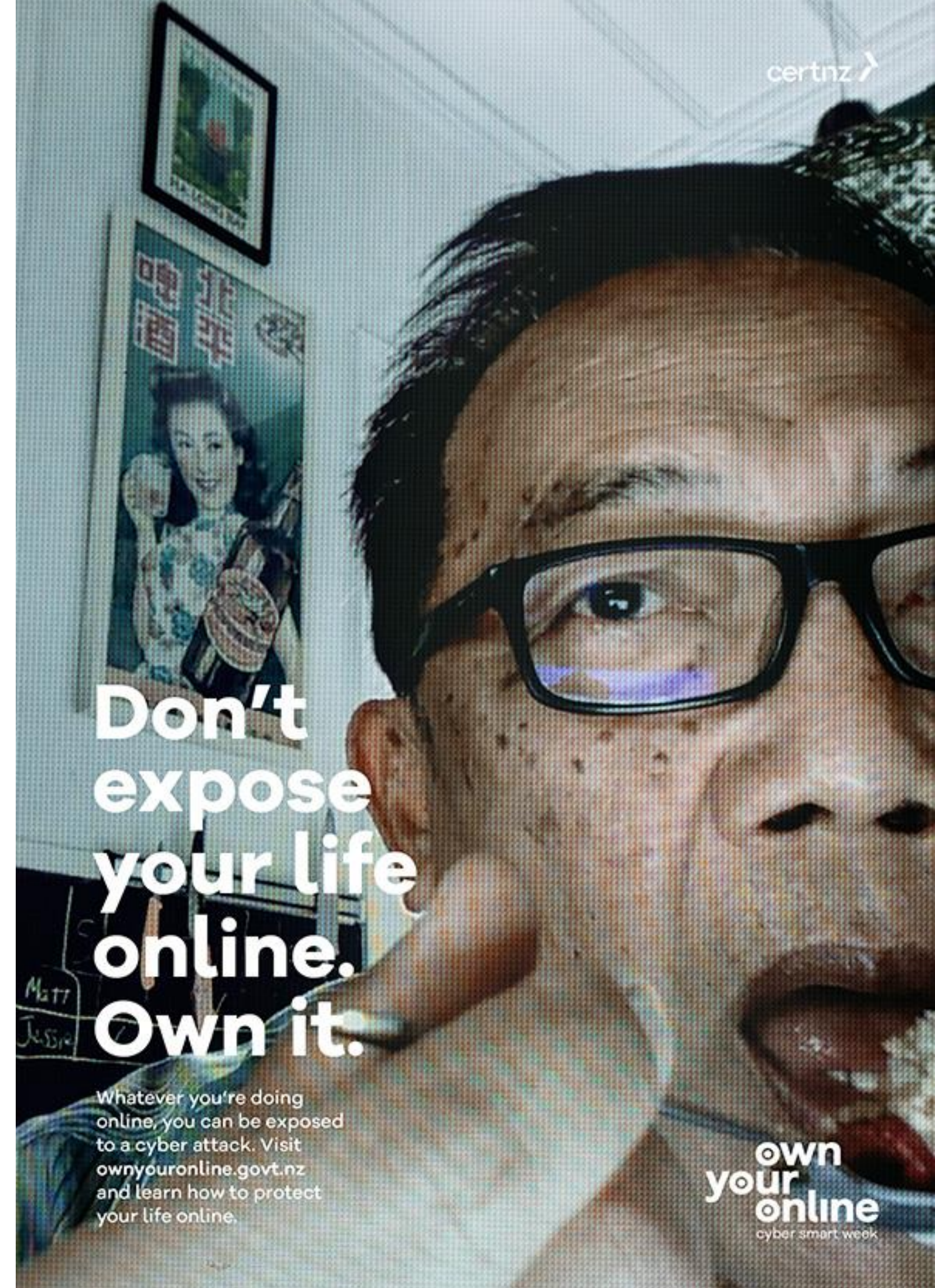
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online.  
Own it.**

Whatever you're doing online, you can be exposed to a cyber attack. Visit [ownyouronline.govt.nz](http://ownyouronline.govt.nz) and learn how to protect your life online.

# Business email compromise

Where an attacker gets access to an employee's email account without their permission, to carry out attacks or scams.

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# Business email compromise

Business email accounts hold a lot of sensitive and valuable information.

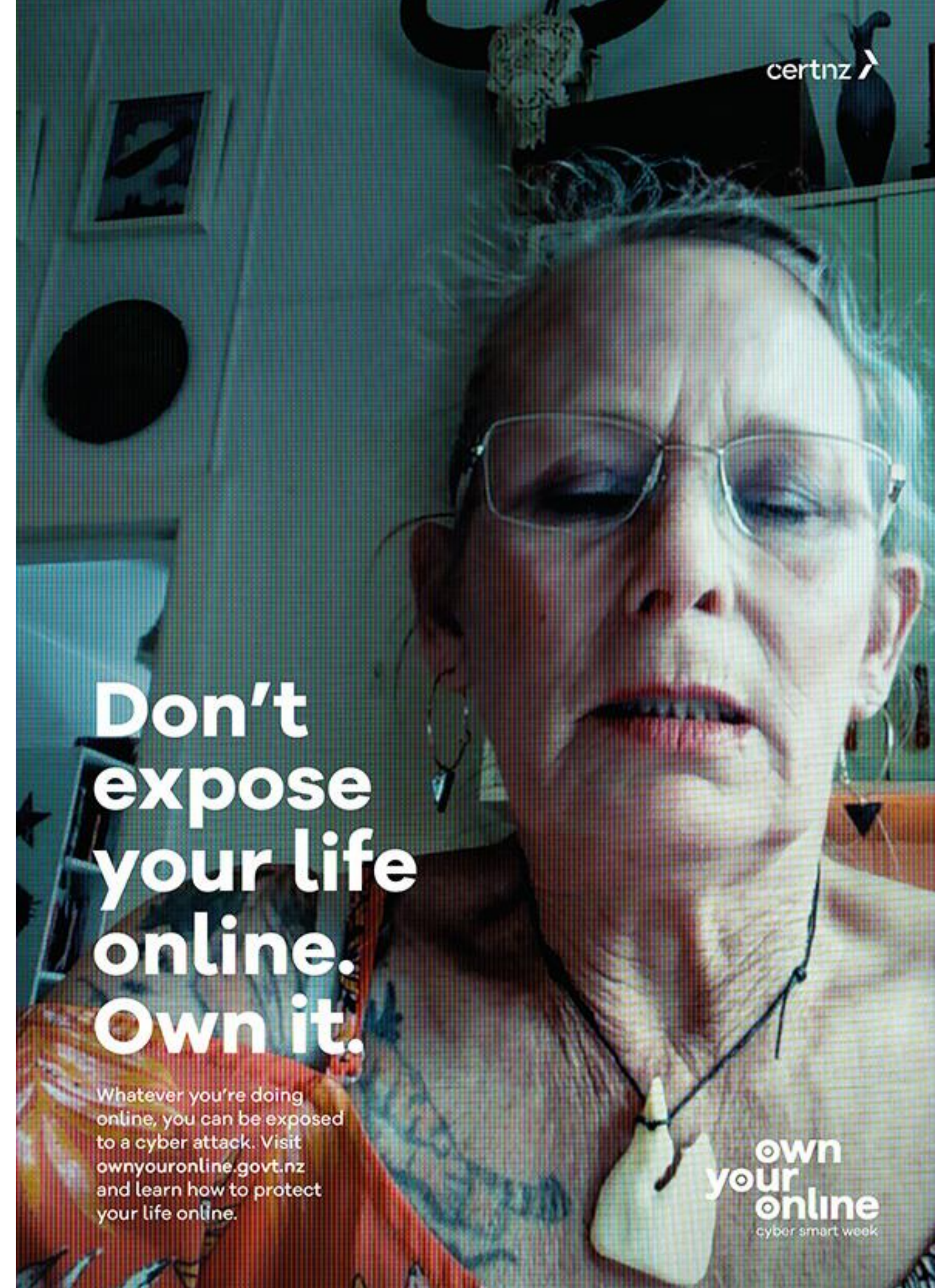
Scammers with email access can carry out attacks, such as:

- invoice scams – sending fake invoices pretending to be from a business
- intercepting legitimate invoices and changing the payment details to redirect payments to their bank account
- sending phishing emails or malware.

# Malware

'Malware' is any kind of malicious software designed to damage or harm a computer system. Malware aims to gain access to your computer without you knowing it's there, often from email attachments, downloads or portable devices.

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# Ransomware

Ransomware is a type of malware that denies a user access to their files or computer system unless they pay a ransom.

It is used to extort money from people. In some cases, the attacker will also threaten to leak private data to the public.





# How can organisations protect against cyber attacks?

# Passwords

Use long, strong, unique passwords

- Longest is strongest: use at least 15 characters
- Always use unique passwords for critical accounts.
- Use a passphrase that's four or more words.
- Avoid common patterns and personal information.
- Check if your password or email account has been compromised at [www.haveibeenpwned.com](http://www.haveibeenpwned.com).



# Two-factor authentication

Turn on 2FA as an extra layer of protection

- 2FA is a unique code sent to your phone or taken from an app that only you have access to.
- 2FA stops attackers from accessing your accounts with your log in details and can let you know that these details have been compromised.
- Read 2FA codes carefully and only enter them if the message description matches the action you are taking.



# Updates

Turn on auto-updates on apps and devices

- Updating devices improves performances and fixes weakness that could let in attackers.
- The easiest way to do this is by going to settings and turning on automatic updates.



# Privacy

## Protect your privacy online

- Be mindful about what you do online – your digital imprint is highly valuable.
- Check your privacy settings on social media and consider using the ‘private’ ‘friends only’ or ‘lock’ functions to control who sees your information.
- Check websites are secure before submitting personal information.



# Stop and think

Think before you click

- Be wary of opening links and attachments, especially from people you don't know.
- If you have any doubt, check with the person or organisation through a different communication channel.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.



# Top tips for businesses



Install updates



Implement 2FA



Back up data



Set up logs



Create a plan



Update default credentials



Use cloud services



Only collect data you need



Secure your devices

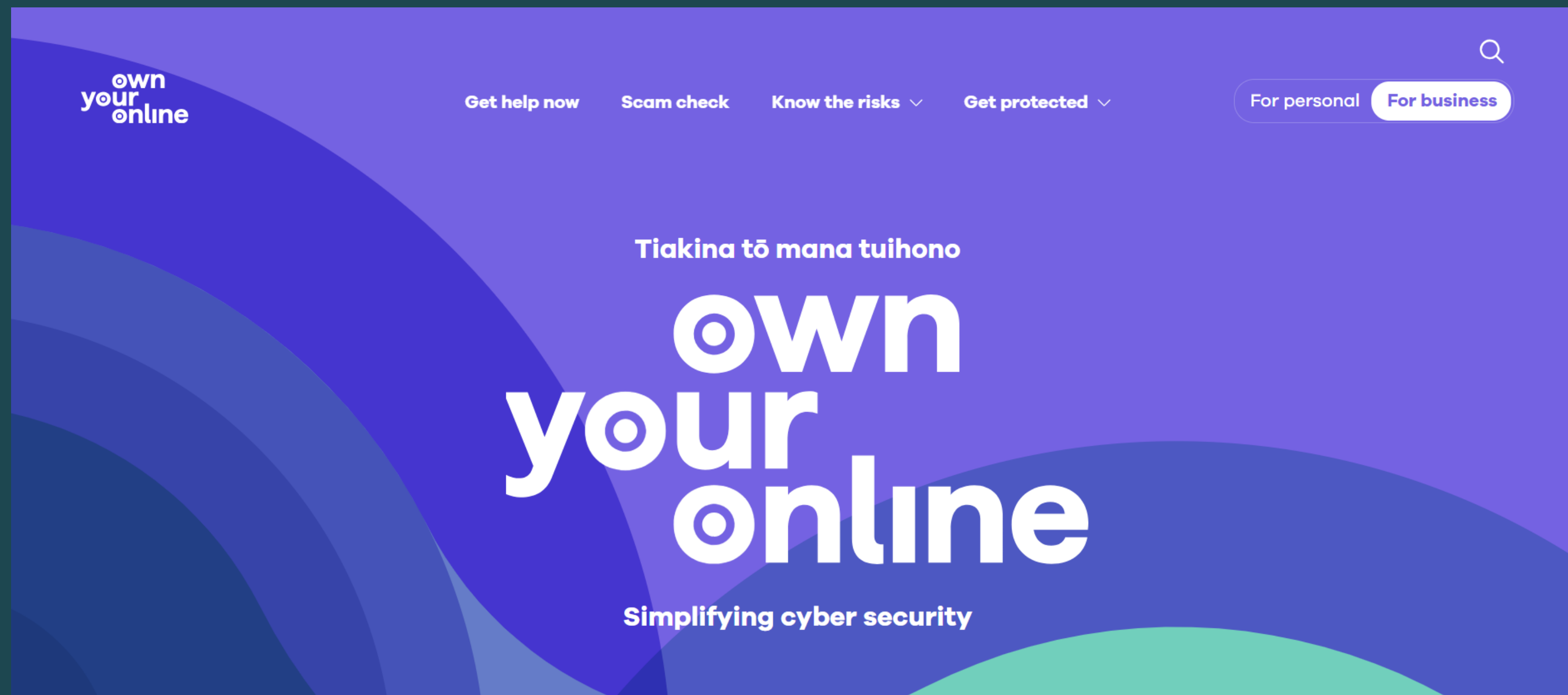


Secure your network



Check new or usual requests

Find more information at  
[ownyouronline.govt.nz/business](https://ownyouronline.govt.nz/business)





# Questions?

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