

# Verizon's 2012 Data Breach Investigations Report Provides Latest Findings in Information Security

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Verizon's 2012 Data Breach Investigations report highlights the current landscape in data breach incidents. Among their findings:

- In general, external breaches were conducted with hacking (81 percent) and malware (69 percent).
- Servers (94 percent) are most vulnerable to attack.
- In 95 percent of cases, hackers are targeting financial data and personal identification information (names, Social Security numbers, and addresses).
- Sixty-five percent of attacks were considered "low difficulty" and did not require sophisticated techniques to successfully breach the system.
- Seven percent of all data breaches occurred in the health care industry, particularly in the small-to-medium business category, and this number is expected to rise.
- Cybercriminals targeting health care organizations were more interested in Point of Sale systems and financial data, not electronic health records.
- In 84 percent of cases, it took multiple weeks or longer to discover that a breach had occurred.
- Most breaches (97 percent) were avoidable through simple or intermediate controls.
- Preventing a breach from happening is less expensive than the cost of dealing with a traditional breach.

Read the full report: [Verizon's Data Breach Investigations Report](#)

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