

# SANS 2022 Ransomware Defense Report

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**Analyst Program** 

## OVERVIEW

The years 2020 and 2021 were undoubtedly the years of ransomware. Threat actors wasted no time taking advantage of the chaos caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, launching attacks that netted millions (if not billions) of dollars in extortion fees and leaked a record amount of data from victim organizations. However, ransomware attacks did not suddenly pop up and consume the globe like a viral video. Rather, adversaries are finding success by looking for common weaknesses and enterprise pain points, and exploiting those for quick profit.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Matt Bromiley**  
SANS Certified Instructor

Matt Bromiley is a principal incident response consultant at a top digital forensics and incident response (DFIR) firm, where he assists clients with incident response, digital forensics, and litigation support. He also serves as a GIAC Advisory Board member, a subject-matter expert for SANS Security Awareness, and a technical writer for the SANS Analyst Program. Matt brings his passion for digital forensics to the classroom as a SANS Instructor for FOR508: Advanced Incident Response, Threat Hunting and Digital Forensics, and FOR572: Advanced Network Forensics, where he focuses on providing students with implementable tools and concepts.

In this report, we will look at how ransomware defenses have changed from 2020 through 2022. As the adversaries have changed their tactics and techniques, we expect that security teams will have done the same. This report will look at ransomware threat actor changes, current trends, and how to implement defenses against those trends.

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