

Ransomware On the Rise

How to Reduce Your Risk with ASM

Ransomware is now one of the fastest-growing cyber threats worldwide, targeting organizations of every size and sector. In 2023 alone, ransomware attacks surged by 73% year-over-year, accounting for 30% of all reported security incidents.¹ In contrast, they comprised just 1% back in 2015.²

Industries such as manufacturing, financial services, and healthcare are especially vulnerable, as threat actors seek lucrative payouts and aim to cause widespread disruption. With the rise of professional ransomware groups and Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS), these attacks have become more sophisticated than ever.

Vulnerable Public-Facing Assets: A Gateway for Ransomware

Reporting from the Cyentia Institute finds that exploited, public-facing assets are **the number one initial access vector** for ransomware attacks. Vulnerable and mismanaged internet assets are attractive to bad actors because they can be:

- Easily found online
- Directly attacked
- Often exist outside the purview of security teams

As organizations expand their digital infrastructure, their attack surface grows—creating more opportunities for vulnerabilities. Security teams now face the daunting task of managing and prioritizing these exposed assets.

The Prioritization Problem: A Race Against Time

Expanding attack surfaces mean more vulnerabilities, and the pressure to patch swiftly has never been higher. When a new vulnerability emerges, attackers often strike before security teams can respond. This is especially challenging for small and mid-sized organizations, which frequently lack the resources of larger enterprises. **In fact, 85% of ransomware attacks in 2023 were targeted at small businesses.**³

¹ [Cyentia Institute Ransomware Information Risk Insights Study, 2024](#)

² [Cyentia Institute Ransomware Information Risk Insights Study, 2024](#)

³ [Veeam Data Protection Trends Report, 2023](#)

The Solution: Visibility and Proactive Defense with ASM

Reducing your ransomware risk starts with visibility. If you can't see your attack surface, you can't protect it. Full attack surface visibility is essential to close the gaps ransomware attackers exploit.

Censys Attack Surface Management: Your Frontline Defense

Censys Attack Surface Management (ASM) provides the complete visibility needed to defend against ransomware and other cyber threats. Here's how it works:

- **Continuous Asset Discovery:** Censys ASM continuously scans for and discovers public-facing assets across your attack surface—including hosts, services, websites, certificates, and domains—using your organization's unique digital footprint.
- **Comprehensive Inventory:** Build a complete inventory of your known and unknown public-facing assets. Censys helps discover unmanaged assets often introduced by cloud deployments and Shadow IT.
- **Risk-Based Prioritization:** With rich data and deep insights, Censys ASM identifies over 500 different types of risks, from software vulnerabilities to misconfigurations. It also pinpoints unmanaged web applications and software across 1,000 vendors to help you prioritize remediation.
- **Immediate Response to New Vulnerabilities:** The Censys Rapid Response program allows you to quickly assess your exposure when new vulnerabilities arise. In 24–72 hours after a zero-day vulnerability is disclosed, Censys provides data on affected software versions so you can take action before attackers exploit them.

Censys ASM discovers **65% more of an organization's attack surface than leading competitors**—providing security teams with the most comprehensive protection available.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP:

Protect Against Ransomware with Censys ASM

With Censys ASM, you'll gain the full visibility you need to stay ahead of ransomware attacks. [Contact us today](#) to see how Censys can help you secure your attack surface.



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Censys is the leading Internet Intelligence Platform for Threat Hunting and Attack Surface Management, known for discovering assets six times faster than its closest competitor. Censys offers the most comprehensive, accurate, and up-to-date map of the internet available with daily refreshes of billions of services and the world's largest certificate database empowering our customers to proactively discover, prioritize and remediate threats. Established by the creators of ZMap and trusted by the U.S. Government, along with over 50% of the Fortune 500, Censys' mission is to be the one place to understand everything on the internet.