Most large maritime companies have been cyberattack targets, survey says

By David Krapf on OCTOBER 31, 2018

Almost 80% of large U.S. maritime industry companies (more than 400 employees) reported that cyberattacks targeted their companies within the past year, according to a maritime cybersecurity survey released today. While many companies seem to have this threat on their radar, while the smaller and mid-sized companies are mostly unprepared.

“A study of this type, conducted by independent third parties, is not only crucial to the industry’s credibility, but also to ensure that business leaders and compliance executives are comprehensively aware of cybersecurity risks, which the industry is unprepared to shoulder. In fact, all companies seem to have this threat on their radar, yet the smaller and mid-sized companies are mostly unprepared,” said Hansford Wogan, a maritime attorney and a co-author of the survey.

The survey strongly illustrates that industry preparedness is dependent on two factors: company size and recent experience as a cyberattack target, said Lee said. For many companies – especially smaller and midsized companies – there are gaps in implementing fundamental cybersecurity procedures, including crucial training for employees and testing of cybersecurity systems.

Survey participants included 126 senior executives, chief technology officers, chief information officers, enterprise security and compliance leaders, and key managers from U.S. maritime companies of all sizes.

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Small and midsize companies lack even the most fundamental protections, exposing them to huge potential losses. Small and midsize companies are far less prepared than larger companies to respond to a cybersecurity breach.

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