

Crisis Trades: The U.S. State Department Isn't Even Safe from Cyber Attacks

A few keystrokes are all it takes.

All of a sudden, your most private information is in the hands of criminals.

Your most personal information, banking details, social security numbers, your children's information... even our own government isn't safe.

In early August, the U.S. State Department was hit.

According to Sam Curry, chief security officer at Cybereason, as quoted by Infosecurity-Magazine.com, "The recent cyber-attack against the U.S. State Department is a reminder that anyone and everyone can be hit and will be hit. Today, it is a matter of how quickly threats are discovered and how quickly they are stopped."

T-Mobile for example said hackers stole data of about 50 million people. Colonial Pipeline were taken down by a remote account with compromised VPN, or virtual private network password.

Cities, hospitals, schools, and many companies aren't ready. According to The Crime Report, "Nearly half of all U.S. hospitals have disconnected their networks in the past six months due to escalating ransomware attacks."

Even libraries aren't safe. In fact, the Boston Public Library just said it experienced "a systemwide technical outage" after being targeted by a cyberattack.

Even you've been hit, even if you're unaware.

Worse, according to Fortinet, "IDC predicts there will be 55.7 billion connected devices by 2025, of which 75% will be connected to the IoT. IDC also estimates that IoT devices will generate 73.1 zettabytes of data by 2025, up from just 18.3 zettabytes in 2019."

Yet, we're still not prepared for another massive attack – not even our own government.

FireEye (FEYE)

FireEye offers network security, malware analysis, endpoint security, e-mail security and file content security. After being ignored for quite some time, FEYE has become an industry high-flier to own long-term. Helping, President and COO John Watters recently bought 25,000 shares at \$18.64 apiece.

In addition, according to Benzinga, "FireEye recently introduced FireEye XDR, a unified platform designed to help security operations teams strengthen threat detection, accelerate response capabilities, and simplify investigations."

ETFMG Prime Cyber Security ETF (HACK)

The ETFMG Prime Cyber Security ETF (HACK) "is a portfolio of companies providing cyber security solutions that include hardware, software and services. HACK is an exchange-traded fund (ETF) that seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield, before fund fees and expenses, of the Prime Cyber Defense Index," as noted by ETFMG.

At \$64.75, the HACK ETF offers exposure to Cisco, Cloudflare, Fortinet, Palo Alto Networks, Splunk Inc., and Cyberark Software to name a few.

Global X Cybersecurity ETF (BUG)

“The Global X Cybersecurity ETF (BUG) seeks to invest in companies that stand to potentially benefit from the increased adoption of cybersecurity technology, such as those whose principal business is in the development and management of security protocols preventing intrusion and attacks to systems, networks, applications, computers, and mobile devices,” says Global X.

At \$33, BUG offers exposure to Zscaler Inc., Fortinet, CrowdStrike, Palo Alto Networks, Okta Inc., Cyberark Software, and Rapid7 Inc. to name a few.