

GOOD IDEAS VULNERABILITY EXPLOITATION

Vulnerability exploitation is one of the fastest-growing attack vectors.

Attackers are increasingly finding weaknesses in IT systems to conduct malicious activity. According to M-Trends, an annual threat report from Google Cloud's subsidiary Mandiant, exploited vulnerabilities accounted for 33% of all hacks in 2024, more than double the next attack method, stolen credentials (16%).

With so many internet-connected devices, attackers have a plethora of targets, and it can be challenging for organizations to keep hardware and software patched.

IT is complicated. Knowing the right questions to ask can be difficult. When it comes to vulnerability exploitation, here's a checklist of good ideas.

Ask your IT expert:

- ☐ **Are we running an outdated OS¹ or unsupported equipment/software²?**
Unpatched or unsupported equipment and software are an open door for attackers constantly looking for weaknesses.
- ☐ **Is patching getting done regularly³?**
Windows updates happen the most frequently: every week. Other patches should be applied as soon as they are released.
- ☐ **Do we utilize an MDR solution⁴?**
MDR solutions detect, investigate and respond to threats across your IT environment using technology and human expertise.
- ☐ **Are we segmenting our network?**
Divide your network into smaller, isolated segments to protect against breaches and improve network performance.
- ☐ **Are we enforcing the principle of least privilege⁵?**
Each employee who has more permissions than necessary leads to more risk for the organization.

Need Help Answering These Questions?

Call us at (616) 949-4020 or email us at GoodIdeas@hungerford.tech.

¹ <https://www.hungerford.tech/blog/windows-patch-management/>

² <https://www.hungerford.tech/blog/the-dangers-of-running-unsupported-vmware-software/>

³ <https://www.hungerford.tech/blog/how-to-prepare-for-windows-patching/>

⁴ <https://www.hungerford.tech/blog/why-small-businesses-cant-skip-detection-and-response-anymore/>

⁵ <https://www.hungerford.tech/blog/why-its-a-bad-idea-for-businesses-to-allow-local-administrator-access/>