

Housing Associations

With increased pressure from regulators like the ICO, and the growing sophistication of cyber threats, it's no longer enough to rely on traditional security measures. A single breach can lead to severe consequences: exposure of tenant data, loss of trust within the community, hefty regulatory fines and costly recovery efforts.

Your Biggest Security Challenges



Data Exfiltration



Insider Threats

Identity impersonation and credential harvesting is now the leading form of attack

Data Exfiltration Identification

- API permissions
- Data behaviour baselines
- Unauthorised application
- Stolen credentials
- Lateral movement correlation

Insider Threat Identification

- Departing employee
- Malicious insider
- Negligent worker
- Security evaders
- Insider agents
- Third party partner

Recent Attacks on Housing Associations

A 2024 cyberattack on **Albyn Housing Society** exposed personal details of its staff and tenants, including sensitive payroll information, after the ransomware group **RansomHub** leaked the data on the dark web. The organisation, which manages over 3,800 properties, experienced a systems outage that disrupted services. Ransomware attacks are projected to cost over £8 trillion globally in the coming year.

How secure are you?

Actionable Security Checklist

Data Classification

- Implement a Data Classification Framework: All data is classified according to sensitivity.
- Utilise Tools for Classification: Use Microsoft Purview for data classification.

Security Logs Management

- Capture Security Logs: Ensure comprehensive logging of all activities across applications, network, endpoints & identities.
- Utilise a SIEM Solution: Integrate into a SIEM solution (e.g. Microsoft Sentinel) for log correlation & analysis.
- Automate Log Analysis: Analyse & correlate activity to identify anomalies.

Identity Protection

- Monitor User Behaviour: Learn user behaviours to identify unusual, unexpected activities or access attempts.
- Implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA): Enforce MFA for all users.
- Monitor Identity Protection: Analyse user permissions & usage.

Incident Response Planning

- Develop Incident Response Plans: Regularly update incident response plans that detail steps to take in case of data exfiltration or insider threats.
- Operational Resilience: Rehearse incident response scenarios to maximise protection.

Insider Threat Management

- Implement Insider Threat Detection: Utilise tools & processes to detect & manage insider threats & anomalous activity.
- Employee Awareness: Regular employee training to recognise & report suspicious activities.
- Integrate HR Systems: Integrate security with HR systems to identify risks with employee travel, absences or departures.

Actionable Security Checklist

Threat Monitoring and Analysis

- Conduct Risk Assessments: Regularly assess cybersecurity posture to identify vulnerabilities & continual improvements.
- Implement Continuous Monitoring: Of networks, applications, identities & endpoints for signs of unauthorised access or data exfiltration.

Third-Party Management

- Assess Third-Party Risks: Regularly evaluate all aspects of third-party security.
- Limit API Permissions: Ensure that API permissions are restricted & monitored.

Regular Reviews & Updates

- Update Security Policies: Regularly update cybersecurity policies to reflect the latest threats & risks.
- Review Software & Tools: Assess the effectiveness of current security tools & make updates or replacements as necessary.

Essential questions you must be able to answer when breached

1. What data has been exfiltrated within 24 hours & the customers affected?
2. Who are your highest risk inside users and roles?
3. Why did you NOT detect the data exfiltration?

**What are your security concerns?
We're here to help!**

Get in touch!

About CloudGuard

Cybersecurity isn't just a concern for giants in the industry; it's a necessity for businesses of all sizes. That's why we created CloudGuard. We want to bring **enterprise-level protection** within reach of small to medium-sized businesses.

CloudGuard offers a Managed Security Services ecosystem that combines the latest technology with UK-based experts to protect your organisation 24/7. This allows you to focus on what matters - **growing your business.**