

Protect your School against Cyberattacks

Private Schools Attacks are a Growing Concern in Australia

Cyberattacks on private schools are on the rise in Australia, with cybercriminals targeting sensitive student records containing health and psychological data. These records are highly valuable for extortion schemes aimed at families, making schools an attractive target.

The Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) warns that education providers are among the most targeted sectors, with recent incidents underscoring the need for stronger cyber defences.

A Real-Life Wake-Up Call

One notable incident involved the Association of Independent Schools in New South Wales (AISNSW), which was alerted to malware lurking on their system. The trigger? A staff member clicked on a convincing malicious sponsored link while searching for the education sector's enterprise agreement. The malware, named Gootloader, gained persistent access to the school's network for three days, posing a significant threat.

The attackers didn't take over the network but likely planned to sell access for ransomware. Fortunately, AISNSW acted quickly, isolating the infected device within two hours of the ASD's alert.

Thanks to a swift response, the attack was contained within hours, but it serves as a stark reminder: cybercriminals are constantly evolving their tactics.

Simple Steps to Strengthen Your School's Defences:

To help schools stay protected, AUSCERT recommends:

- **Engaging Cybersecurity Training:**
 - Equip your staff with the skills to recognise and mitigate potential threats.
- **Rapid Patching Practices:**
 - Keep systems up to date to close security gaps.
- **Incident Response Plans:**
 - Develop and test plans through tabletop exercises to verify their effectiveness.
- **Simulated Phishing Campaigns**
 - Educate staff using real-world scenarios to build awareness.
- **Up-to-Date Endpoint Protection:**
 - Secure all school devices, from computers to mobiles, with reliable anti-virus or advanced endpoint protection.

Stay Ahead of Cyber Threats. Don't wait for an attack to happen. Take action now to secure your school's data and protect your community.

For more insights into emerging cybersecurity threats, read the full ASD report [here](#).

