

Report on Patient Privacy Volume 21, Number 8. August 12, 2021 Facing Both Sharks and Mosquitos: Mitigate Common, 'Actionable' Threats

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Some 12,723 security vulnerabilities were disclosed during the first half of 2021, indicating slow growth of disclosures but a seemingly insurmountable mountain of work for security personnel seeking to minimize risk, according to a report released in August by Risk Based Security Inc.^[1]

That makes focusing on specific threats—those that have a public exploit and also a mitigating solution—more important than a patch-as-many-as-you-can approach, the report concluded.

In the first half of 2021, Risk Based Security's VulnDB team aggregated an average of 80 new vulnerabilities per day, even as organizations edged toward a return to normal following the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the report said.

"Organizations may be comfortable returning to their previous processes, but the fundamental problem still remains: there are too many vulnerabilities for many organizations to realistically handle unless they adopt a truly risk-based approach to patching," the report said.

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