

# Cyberattacks target e-learning

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In August, University of Mumbai's Institute of Open and Distance Learning had to call off exams after its server was hit by a cyberattack. In June, students of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) alleged that the institute's online exam software was infected with malware and crashed their systems. MAHE had refuted the claims.

With thousands of schools and colleges shifting to remote admissions, learning and exams after covid-19, the chinks in cybersecurity are beginning to show.

Cybersecurity firm Barracuda Networks, for instance,



Cybersecurity is not a priority for most schools/colleges. HT

found over 1,000 spear-phishing attacks targeting educational institutions in India between July and September.

Spear-phishing refers to targeted phishing email attacks.

"Lack of awareness, tight budget and limited resources

make schools easy targets for cyberattacks and unfortunately, make attacks more effective," said Murali Urs, country manager, India, of Barracuda Networks.

Educational institutions are prime targets for cyberattacks, given the wealth of data hosted in their servers. Online education is a fairly new concept in India, and cybersecurity is not yet a priority for most educational institutions.

Security researcher Karan Saini said that personal data stolen from schools is frequently sold on the Internet and the dark web. Additionally, compromising a .edu domain, which is what most educational institutes use,

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