

Cyberattacks mar e-learning

FROM PAGE 16

allows criminals to make their attacks more potent. In fact, Barracuda Networks' findings showed that 57% of infectious emails sent to institutions were from internal accounts.

Saini said phishing emails sent from a .edu domain are more likely to clear spam filters on email services. A hacked server could yield thousands of email addresses ending with .edu.

"When it comes to in-campus infrastructure, which includes its educational technology like smart classes, school-level ERP and attendance automation, the security standards aren't as competent as enterprises," said Vinayak Godse, vice president, Data Security Council of India, an industry body on data protection set up by Nasscom.

Godse said cybercriminals can steal personal information of staff, students and parents,



Cyberattacks can put the data of students and staff at risk.

demand ransom and at times harm the reputation of institutions. Also, premier academic research institutions can potentially be targeted for research intelligence and intellectual property.

However, cyber awareness is growing. Siddhartha Gupta, CEO of Mercer Mettl, an e-learning solutions provider, said clients are more cautious about the platforms they use.

"Customers (institutes) are

concerned about the security of students' data with the platforms. They enquire where the data is stored, parties having data accessibility, annual data sensitization/audit and whether or not we have in-house certified data security professionals," he said.

Educational institutions, on their part, are also taking steps to improve security.

For instance, BML Munjal University is working on developing additional layers of defence around all end-users, including teachers, administration staff, management and students. "With the adoption of the new normal, we have discovered new attack surfaces in the organization, which requires additional layers of security around the information assets, users, network and infrastructure," said Sarabjot Singh Anand, director, computer science & engineering at BML Munjal University.

abhijit.a@livemint.com