Vulnerability Exploitation is the Leading Attack Vector

The 2026 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report reveals a major shift in how attackers gain initial access. Vulnerability exploitation is now the leading initial access vector in cyberattacks, surpassing credential abuse, phishing and other common entry methods. As organizations struggle to remediate the ever growing list of known exploited vulnerabilities, attackers are aggressively targeting internet-facing systems and critical business assets.

> "Exploitation of vulnerabilities is now the most common initial access vector for breaches. It has risen to 31% in this year's reporting dataset, while credential abuse—the previous leader—is down to 13%..."
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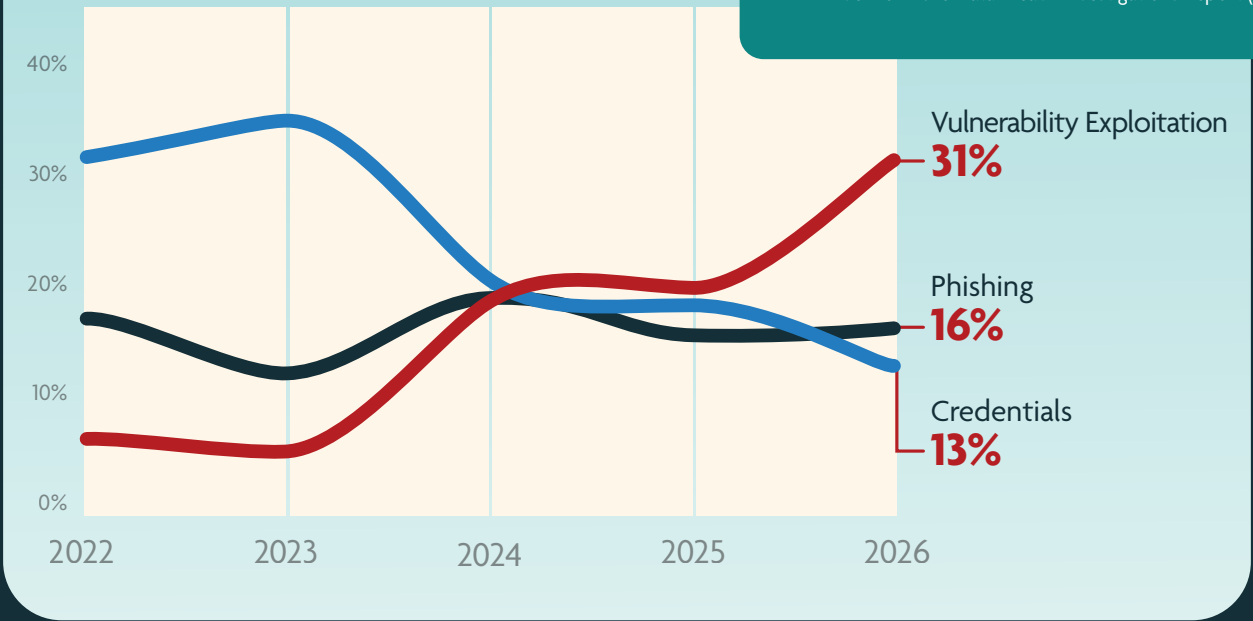
> Verizon 2026 Data Breach Investigations Report (DBIR)



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