



# Costly persistence

A brute force attack and ransomware scheme costs this wholesaler a bundle

HSB, a Munich Re company, is a technology-driven company built on a foundation of specialty insurance, engineering and technology, all working together to drive innovation in a modern world.

**Class of business:** Wholesale

**Business description:** Wholesaler

**What happened:** Through an automated process, ransomware was able to seize a company’s extensive computer system.

**How it happened:** After 2,000 automated log in attempts, a remote brute force attack succeeded in guessing the company’s login credentials, which allowed hackers to access and infect the wholesaler’s system with ransomware. The attackers took control of six physical servers, 35 virtual servers and 90 workstations, demanding a ransom be paid for their release.

**Business impact:** The wholesaler refused to pay, and system backups the wholesaler had in place helped to lessen the blow. But given the size of the infrastructure, remediation efforts were extensive and costly. Lost business income added up as it took time to restore data and systems, and to re-create any data that couldn’t be recovered.

**What it cost**

Data restoration/re-creation	\$20,000
System restoration	\$49,100
Business income loss	\$10,000

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**Total Cost: \$79,100**