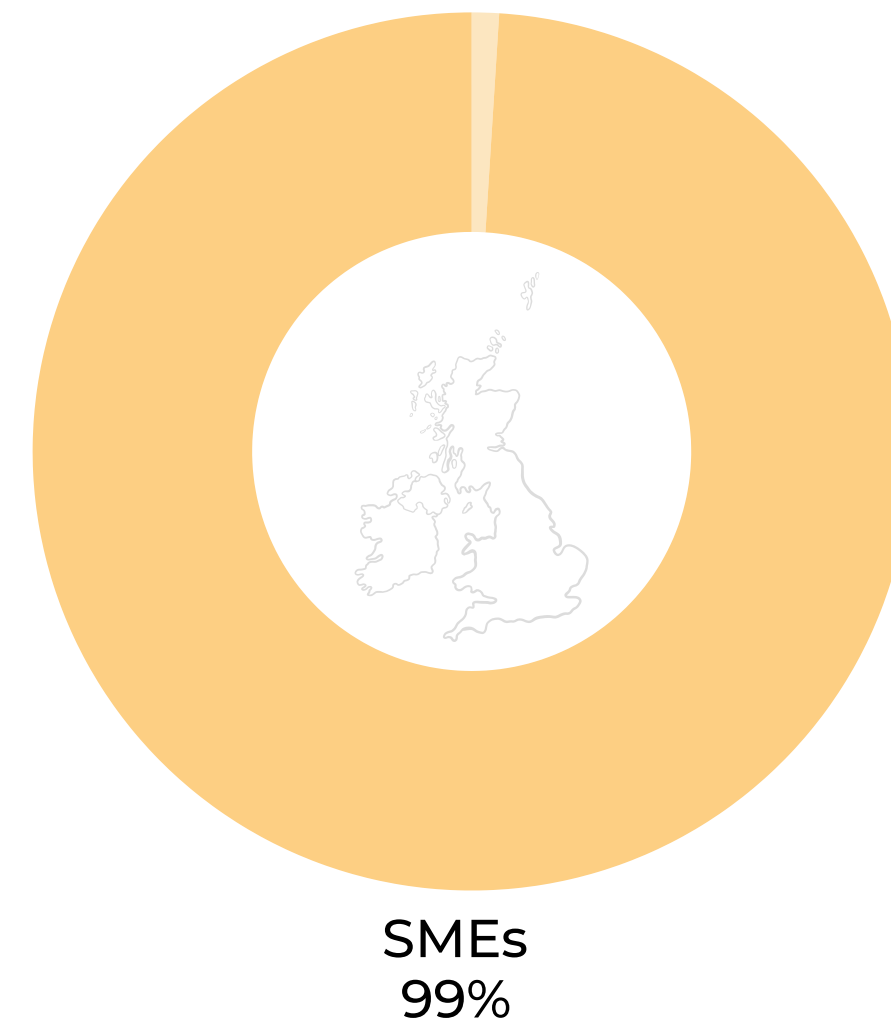# How SMEs in the UK Struggle Against Cyber Threats

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Cyber Threats Facing UK's Small Businesses

The UK is home to around 5.5 million businesses, with 99% being small and medium enterprises (SMEs). While these businesses form the backbone of the economy, they face a growing, invisible threat—cyberattacks.

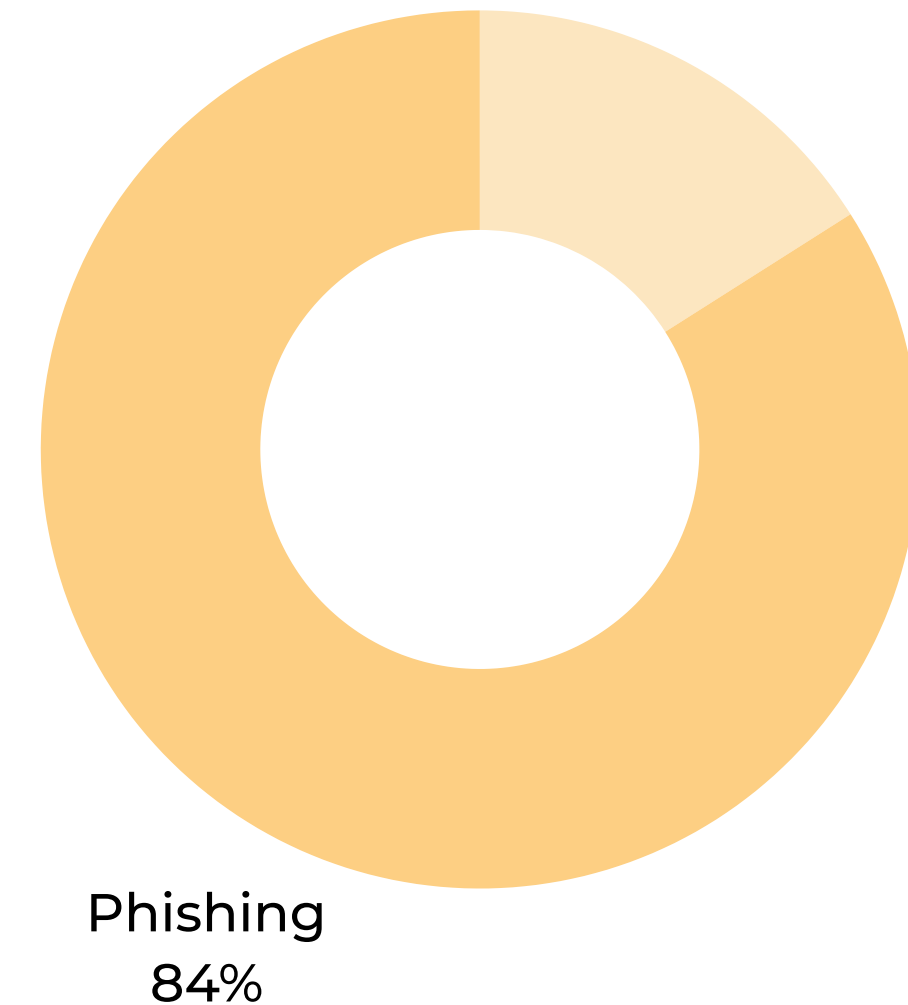SMEs
99%

PACIFIC INFOTECH

Top Cyber Threats to SMEs: Russia & China

For half of SMEs, cybersecurity is their biggest challenge.

And the threat is real—*every second*, a UK business faces

an attack.

The primary culprits? Ransomware, data leaks, and hackers

from China and Russia.

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Phishing: The #1 Cyber Threat to SMEs

Among these threats, phishing stands out as the biggest risk—*accounting for 84% of attacks.* A single fake email or link can lead to massive financial and data losses, making employee training essential.

Phishing
84%

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The most common cyber threats SMEs face include:

■ Network attacks (44.5%) – Breaching company systems remotely.

■ Ransomware (35%) – Locking data for ransom.

■ Software vulnerabilities (32%) – Exploiting outdated software.

Software vulnerabilities
32%

Network attacks
44.5%

Ransomware
35%
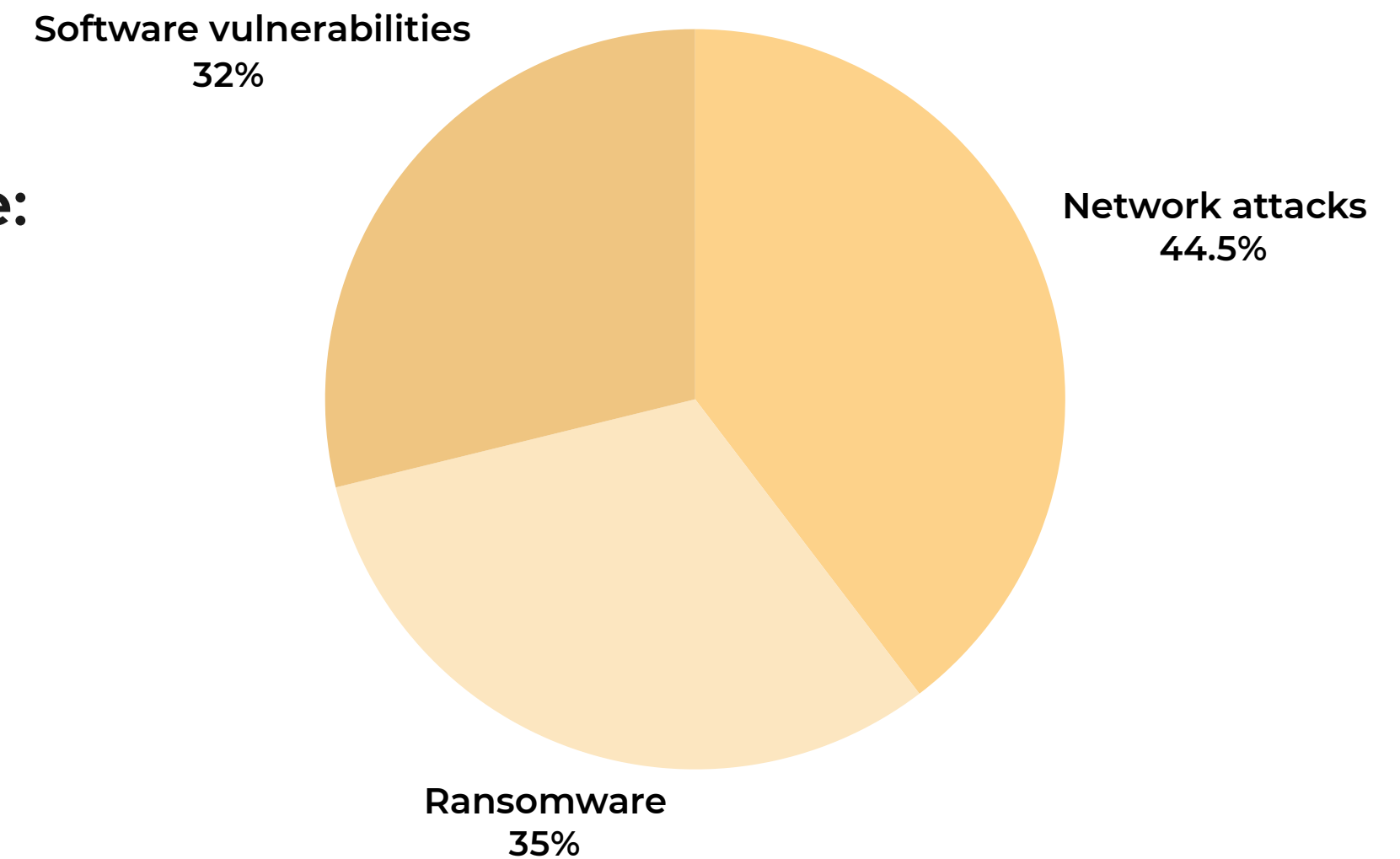
The Cybersecurity Gap: SMEs vs. Big Corporations

Large corporations, with their deep pockets and expert teams, manage cybersecurity better. SMEs, however, struggle due to:

- **Limited budgets** – High-cost security solutions are unaffordable.

- **Lack of expertise** – No dedicated IT security teams.

- **Resource constraints** – Inability to constantly monitor and update security.

- **Employee awareness gaps** – Lack of proper training increases risks.

As cyber threats grow, the government is tightening laws—making it mandatory for SMEs to take action.

So, ignoring security is no longer an option

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CONCLUSION

Cybersecurity Is a Must, Not a Maybe

UK SMEs are the backbone of the economy — but without strong

cybersecurity, they are increasingly vulnerable to global threats.

"Protecting people must be the priority - I am warning organisations today that data protection law is not an excuse and it does not stop you sharing data that may assist with tackling fraud.

Organisations acting responsibly can be reassured that we will take this into account if something goes wrong and we need to consider a regulatory response."

ico.
Information Commissioner's Office

Stephen Almond
Executive Director, Regulatory Risk

ICO via Twitter

From phishing scams to advanced ransomware attacks, user data is being compromised — pushing the government to step

in with warnings, stricter compliance demands, tighter enforcement, and even fines

Thank You!

Don't wait until it's too late. Time to act now!

Need help building your SME's cybersecurity strategy?

Get in touch now!

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