

The top security threats facing Higher Education

Education was the most targeted industry in 2025, with an average of 4,388 cyberattacks a week.¹

Here's what's putting you at risk—and how to lock it down.



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1 Credential-based attacks

A single click on a fake email is all it takes. AI-powered phishing and deepfake-driven scams are making it harder than ever to detect.



of data breaches in Higher Education were from social engineering/phishing.¹



At risk

- **Student and staff data** sold on the dark web
- **Academic records** delaying graduations and job placements
- **Research IP** halting projects and ending grants



Solution

Lenovo ThinkShield solutions with built-in FIDO2 and biometric authentication, working in tandem with devices like the ThinkPad X1 Carbon Aura Edition, with the Intel® Core™ Ultra X7 Series 3 processor, to provide AI-enhanced threat detection.

2 Ransomware disruption

Universities report near-weekly attacks, with Ransomware-as-a-Service a growing problem.



increase in ransomware attacks on Education in 2025 compared to 2024.²



At risk

- **Your data** causing day-to-day disruption
- **Financial loss** in downtime, recovery costs, and legal liabilities
- **Your reputation** impacting future enrolment and grant funding



Solution

Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR) plus Intel Threat Detection to help identify ransomware before it strikes, along with built-in backup, and managed detection via Lenovo Security Services to respond and recover fast.

3 Unsecured research environments

Sensitive research is attractive to cyber criminals, and we're increasingly seeing unauthorized data scraping for model training.



of nation-state cyberattacks on Education in 2025 were actors focusing on institutions with advanced research.³



At risk

- **Scientific findings** claimed and used nefariously
- **Grant funding** cut from current and future projects
- **Financial loss** in regulatory penalties and lawsuits



Solution

Comprehensive Lenovo ThinkShield protection from factory to ongoing use. This includes end-to-end supply chain integrity and is complemented by Intel Hardware Shield, Boot Guard, and Control-flow Enforcement.

4 Inconsistent endpoint oversight

BYOD, labs, and IoT devices are commonplace, and smart campus tech will scale this issue further.



of universities estimate that the majority of devices on their networks are not visible to their IT teams.⁴



At risk

- **Data integrity** from unpatched or outdated software
- **Financial loss** from delayed breach detection
- **Research and IP** from unauthorized data extraction

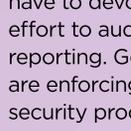


Solution

Lenovo Unified Endpoint Management (UEM) and TruScale Device-as-a-Service offer fleet-wide visibility, patch automation, and scalable security policy control. This is supported by Intel Security technologies.

5 Compliance complexity and audit fatigue

Security teams often have to devote enormous effort to audits and reporting. Governments are enforcing cyber security proof.



6+ cybersecurity frameworks (PCI DSS, HIPAA, CMMC, GLBA, FERPA, etc.) may need to be addressed at the same time.



At risk

- **Grants and funding** conditional on compliance
- **Financial loss** from fines and loss of offerings
- **Broader risk management** as resources are hogged



Solution

Lenovo ThinkShield, with compliance-ready features for FERPA, HIPAA, NIST, and PCI DSS, plus automated audit logs and pre-validated controls to streamline reporting and reduce fatigue.

5 threats—and one step to tackle them all.

Lenovo solutions, powered by Intel, can help your entire campus run more smoothly and securely.

Talk to us about comprehensive safeguarding for your institution.

Sources

¹ Deepstrike/Verizon DBIR 2025.

² Industrial Cyber 2025.

³ Emma Stevens, Bitsight 2025.

⁴ Tom Jorden, EdTech Magazine 2023.

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