



Second Quarter 2026

Tools, Rules, & Resilience

Welcome to the second SCSO Quarterly Update!

The State recently released an AI policy and an AI Acceptable Use Policy that set clear rules for how we adopt and use AI across state systems. Governance around AI matters because security comes from the consistent and safe implementation of tools. AI capabilities are already appearing in the apps and services we use every day, so how you interact with those tools matters. Take a minute to deepen your understanding by visiting the AI Acceptable Use Policy and related governance guidance at <https://sas.arkansas.gov/state-technology/it-governance>.

Safeguards for AI Use

1. Only use agency-approved AI tools.
2. Use state tools for work purposes — for administrative tasks, data analysis, research, communications, and innovation that support mission.
3. Use AI for decision support only; final decisions must be verified by a qualified person.
4. Recognize the risks — AI is a powerful aid but can introduce errors, bias, or data exposure if used improperly.
5. Do not input sensitive or confidential data (including PII or protected health information) into public or unapproved AI tools; any AI use involving sensitive data must be approved.
6. You remain accountable for the accuracy, legality, and appropriateness of all AI-assisted work.

Please refer to the full policy for complete details.

Email: SCSO@arkansas.gov

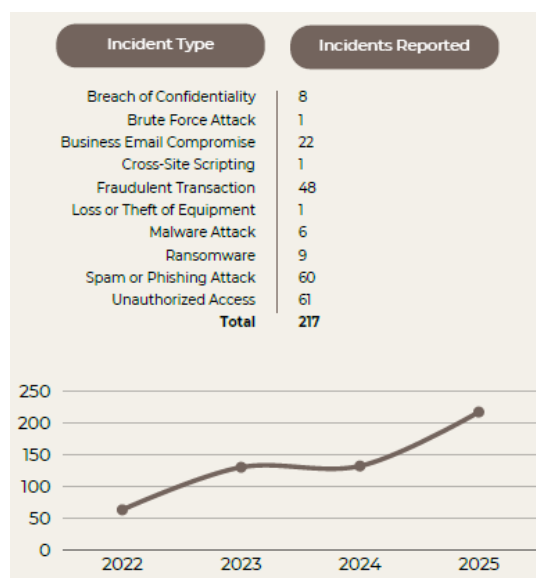
Web: <https://sas.arkansas.gov/state-technology/cybersecurity/>

Understanding the State Trends

Every public entity in Arkansas is required by law to report cybersecurity incidents to the Arkansas Legislative Audit (ALA). The ALA is required to provide an annual report to the legislature summarizing those incidents. Below are a few key stats from the latest report. Staying informed about statewide trends helps us remain vigilant and better protect our systems.

The Arkansas Legislative Audit report documents a sharp rise in public sector cyber incidents from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, with **217 incidents reported by 124 public entities, a 64 percent increase** over the prior year. The report highlights phishing and unauthorized access as leading incident types and shows improved but uneven timeliness of reporting.

Read the full report for details and appendices: <https://arklegaudit.gov/downloadReport.php?id=SPIS00425>



You can do your part by reporting events timely to the State Cybersecurity Office at SCSO@arkansas.gov.



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Arkansas Department of Shared Administrative Services

