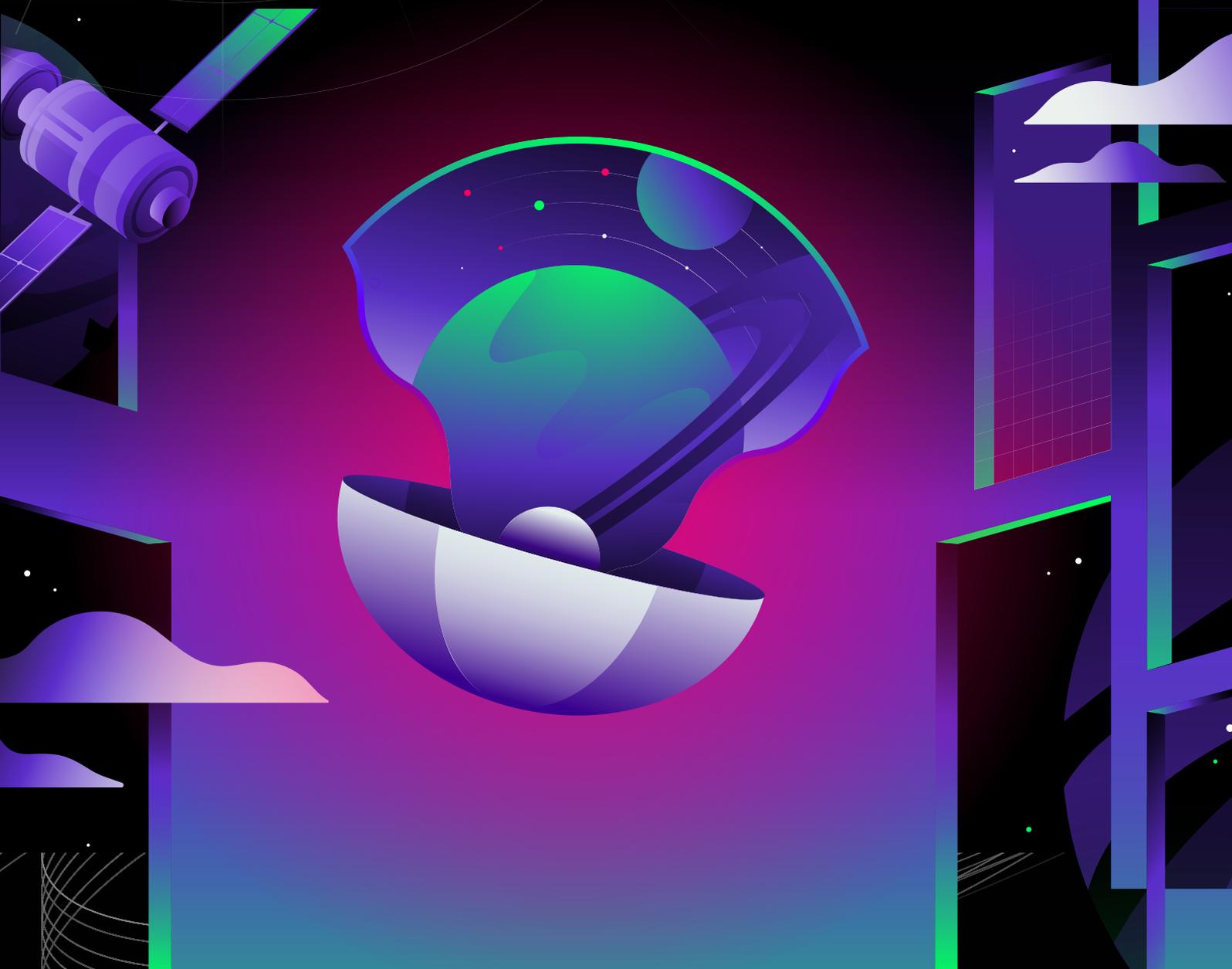# 3 Critical Risks Found by Cyera's Risk Assessments

Data is growing. So is the opportunity to smartly secure it.
Every organization is swimming in data. The real challenge? Knowing where it lives, who has access, why it matters, and how to protect it. That's where modern data security begins.
At Cyera, we help teams get clarity. Through extensive customer risk assessments, our platform uncovered real-world risks that traditional tools miss - risks that are easy to fix once you have the right visibility.

Here are the three most impactful patterns we've seen:

01 | Credentials Stored in Plain Text

We found passwords, tokens, and API keys sitting unprotected in cloud environments - often unintentionally. This exposure creates a critical security risk, as anyone with access to these files could infiltrate systems and compromise sensitive data.

There were 9.3B records affected. A simple fix with the right context.

Description

Authentication data is extremely sensitive, and should never be stored in plain text, even if disk encryption is applied. PCI DSS requirement 8.2.1 demands using encryption to render all authentication credentials (such as passwords, access tokens, and phrases) unreadable during storage on all system components.

Data Classes Found

🟦 Password

Data Contexts Found

Identifiable

Datastore

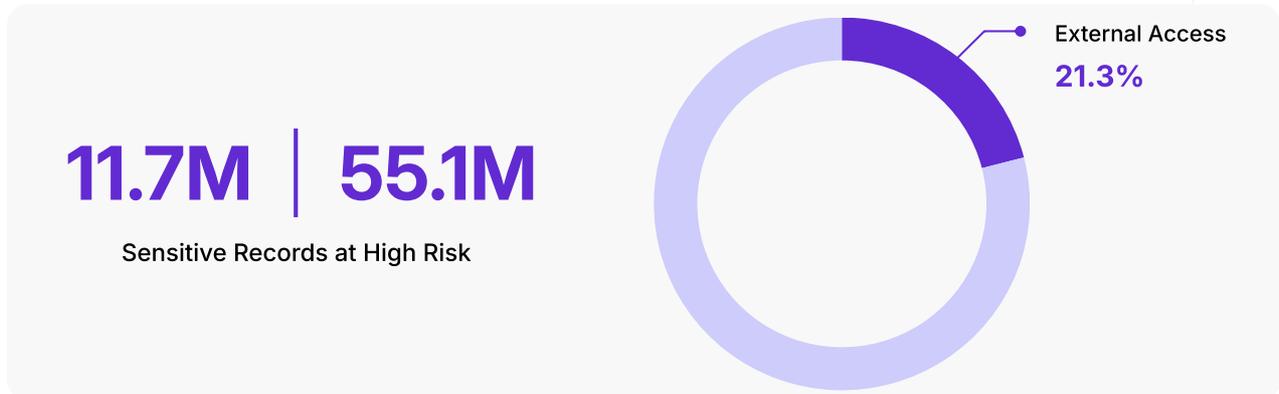aws canada-employees

Affected Records

9.9K

CRITICAL

02 | External Access Without Oversight

Former vendors, contractors, and partners still had access to sensitive data long after they should've been offboarded.

We found 21.2B records impacted. Easy to clean up once it's on your radar.

11.7M | 55.1M

Sensitive Records at High Risk

External Access
21.3%

03 | Credit Card Data in Unexpected Places

Payment data was found in test environments and customer service tools - copied over for convenience, but not always encrypted.

We discovered that 73.1B records were exposed. A great example of why data awareness matters.

Is It At Risk?

POLICY	ISSUES	SEVERITY	DATASTORE
Encryption Unencrypted credit card numbers in ghost data store	14 issues	CRITICAL	Azure SQL Database
Data Dispersion Financial data outside of user defined Financial Zone'	4 issues	CRITICAL	Azure Storage Container
Public Exposure Sensitive files are publicly exposed in Azure Blob Storage	1 issue	CRITICAL	Azure Storage Container

The good news! These risks are solvable. Led by seasoned experts, Cyera's Breach Readiness Service helps you pinpoint your biggest data risks, evaluate your incident response capabilities, and deliver prioritized recommendations. Through Cyera's Data Risk Assessment, you can instantly gain full visibility of your data, determine whether any of it is exposed, and quickly solve material security issues. Strengthen your breach response and take proactive steps to protect your crown jewels from compromise today.

Explore the full report to see how teams are using Cyera's Breach Readiness Service to protect what matters most - their data.

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