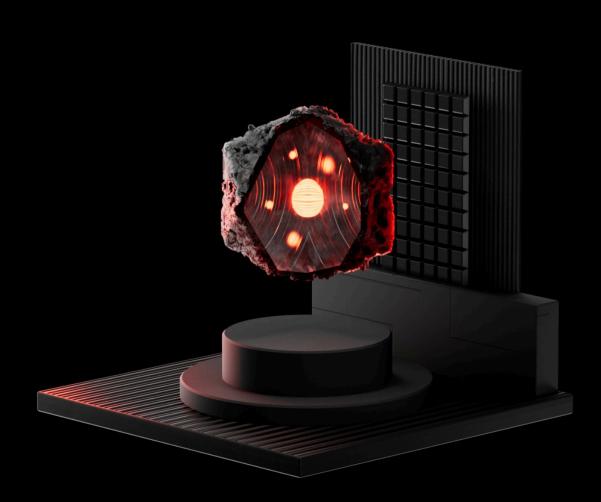


Digital risk highlights 2025: Scams don't respect borders

Global trends



Cybercriminals are scaling their operations worldwide by combining automation, AI, and social engineering to defraud individuals and businesses alike.

\$1 trillion+

lost to scams globally each year (GASA)

\$50 billion

in identity fraud expected in 2025 (SNAPPT)

\$10.7 billion+

sent to fraud in 2024 (TRM Labs)

\$5.7 billion

lost to US investment scams in 2024 (FTC)

\$2.7 million

lost to fake job offers in Q1 2025 (BackOffice Pro)

\$92 million

lost to impersonators in Australia (Anti-Scam Centre)

Classiscam



Cybercriminals use Telegram bots to massgenerate fake courier and payment service pages designed to trick victims into disclosing their financial details.

More and more often, such operations are also used to deliver malware — especially remote access Trojans (RATs).

1,000+

\$10,000 -\$60,000

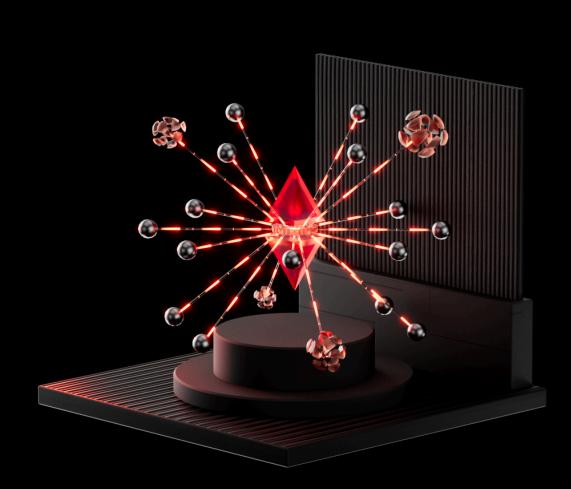
active groups

monthly profit per group

\$120 million to \$720 million

estimated total yearly damage

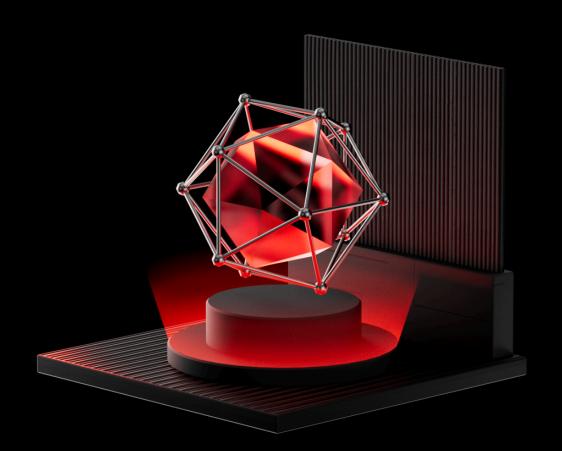
Investment scams



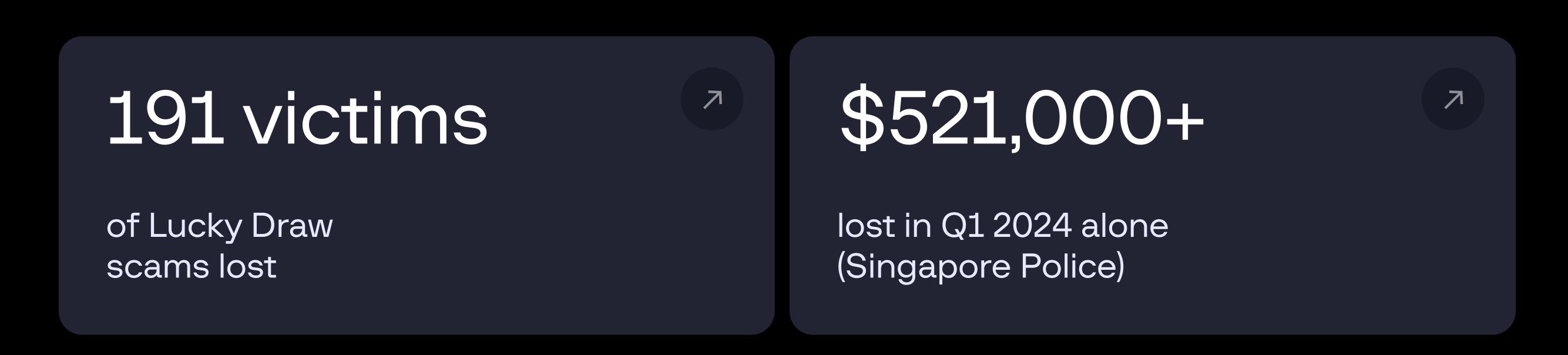
Al-generated scam websites, fake trading apps, and messaging app campaigns ("Pig Butchering") lure victims with promises of high returns.

Once engaged, victims are manipulated into making repeated transfers — often losing all their savings.

Lucky draw scams



Often tied to the Fangxiao threat actor, fake prize campaigns redirect users to malicious destinations — including adware, phishing sites, and malware installers.



New levels of impersonation



HR scams

Fake job offers are used to collect personal data or extort "processing" fees.



Identity theft

Attackers hijack or mimic celebrity and influencer accounts to appear more credible.

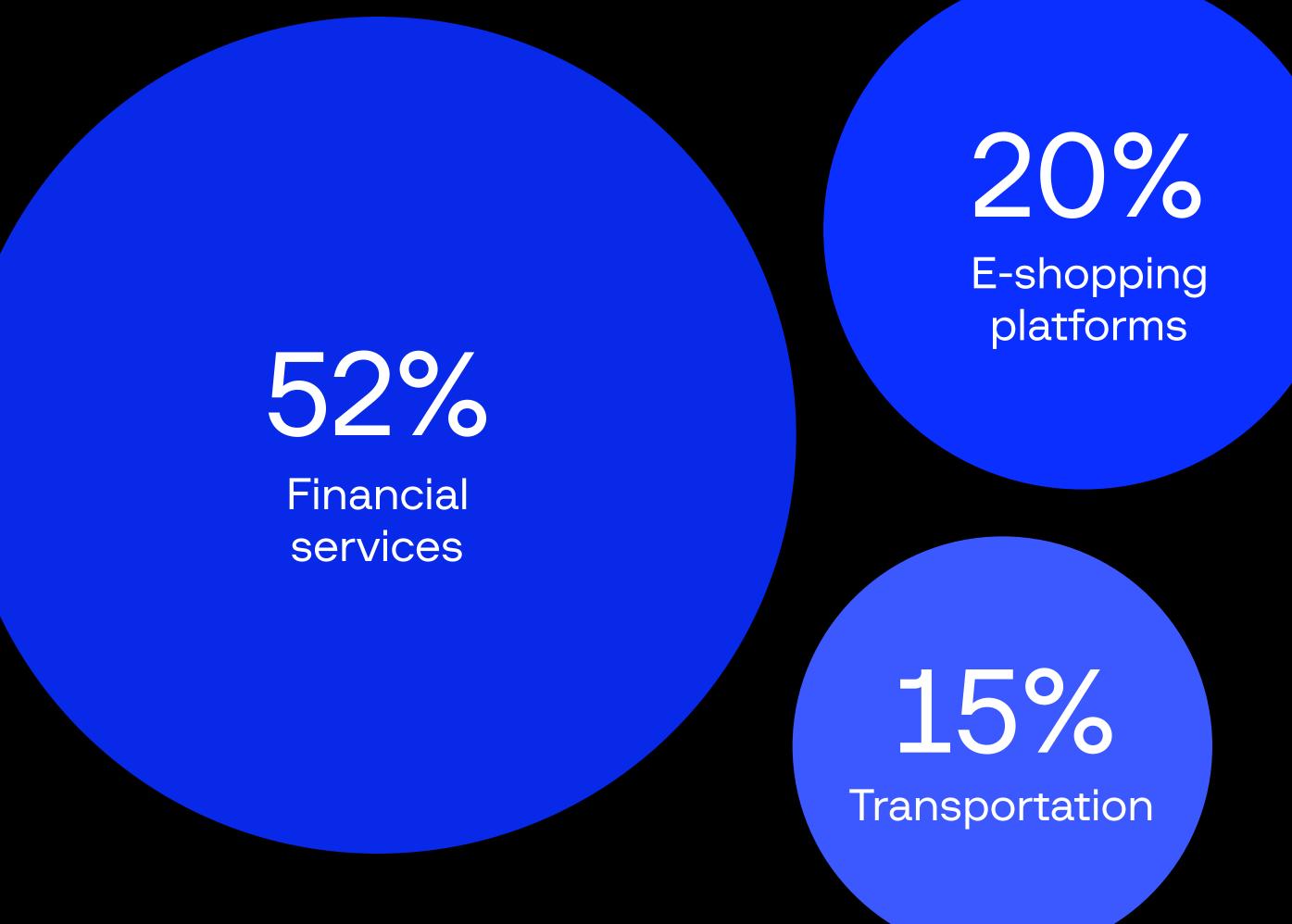


Deepfakes

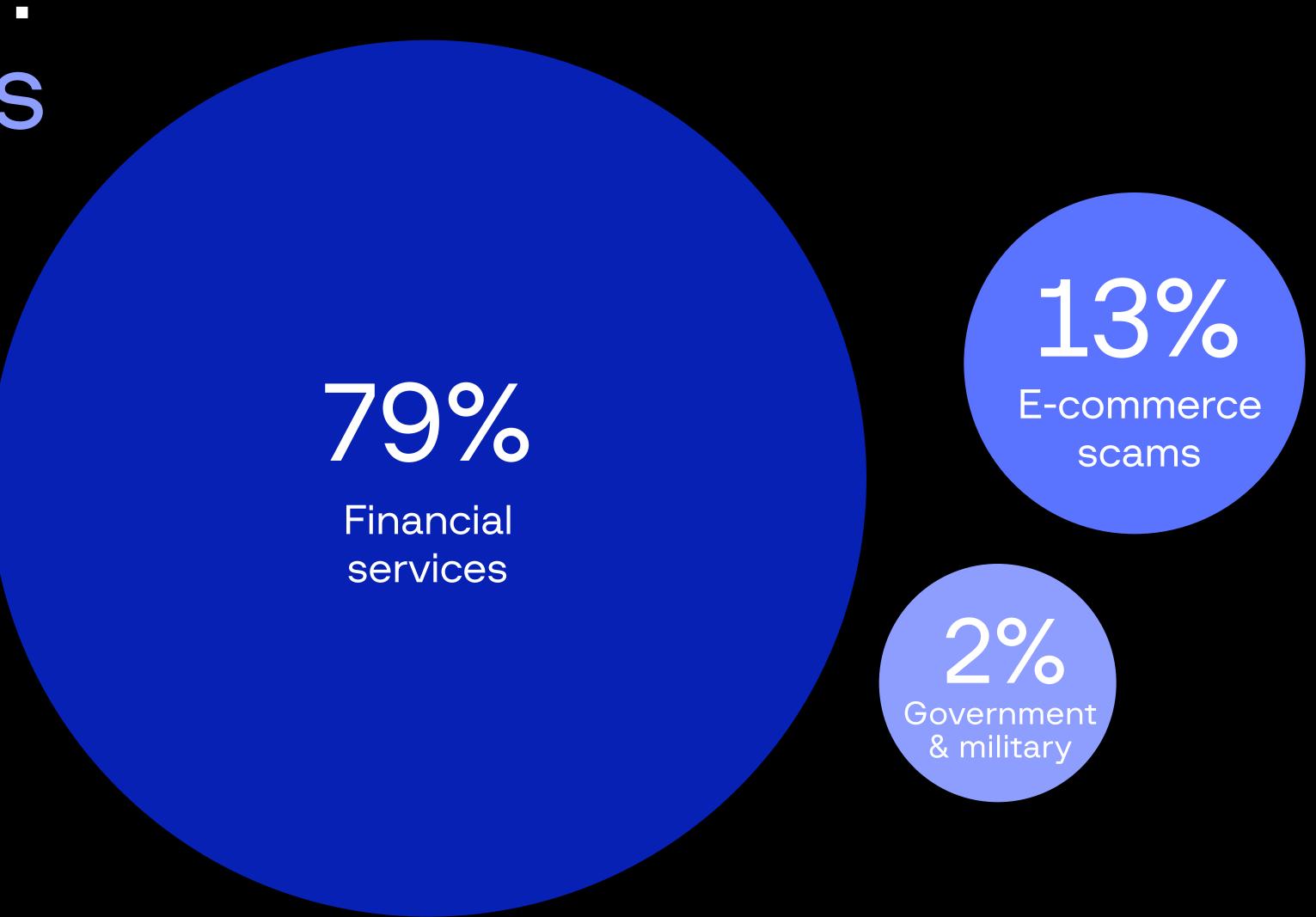
Al-generated voices and videos are used to impersonate executives or public figures and commit fraud.



Who's falling victim to phishing?



Scam economy: the main victims



Key schemes



Fake shops

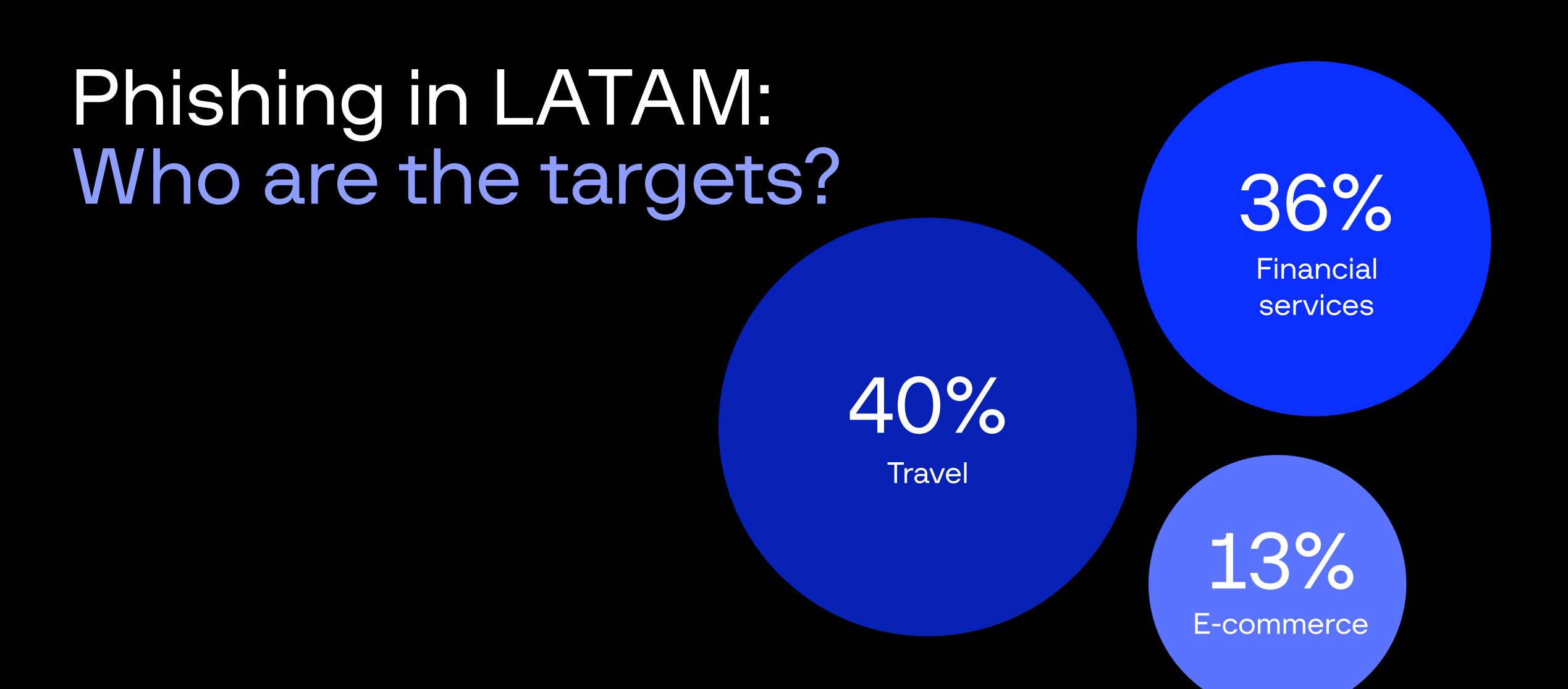
Fraudulent online stores offer deals that are too good to be true but effective. Many people fall for them and lose money.



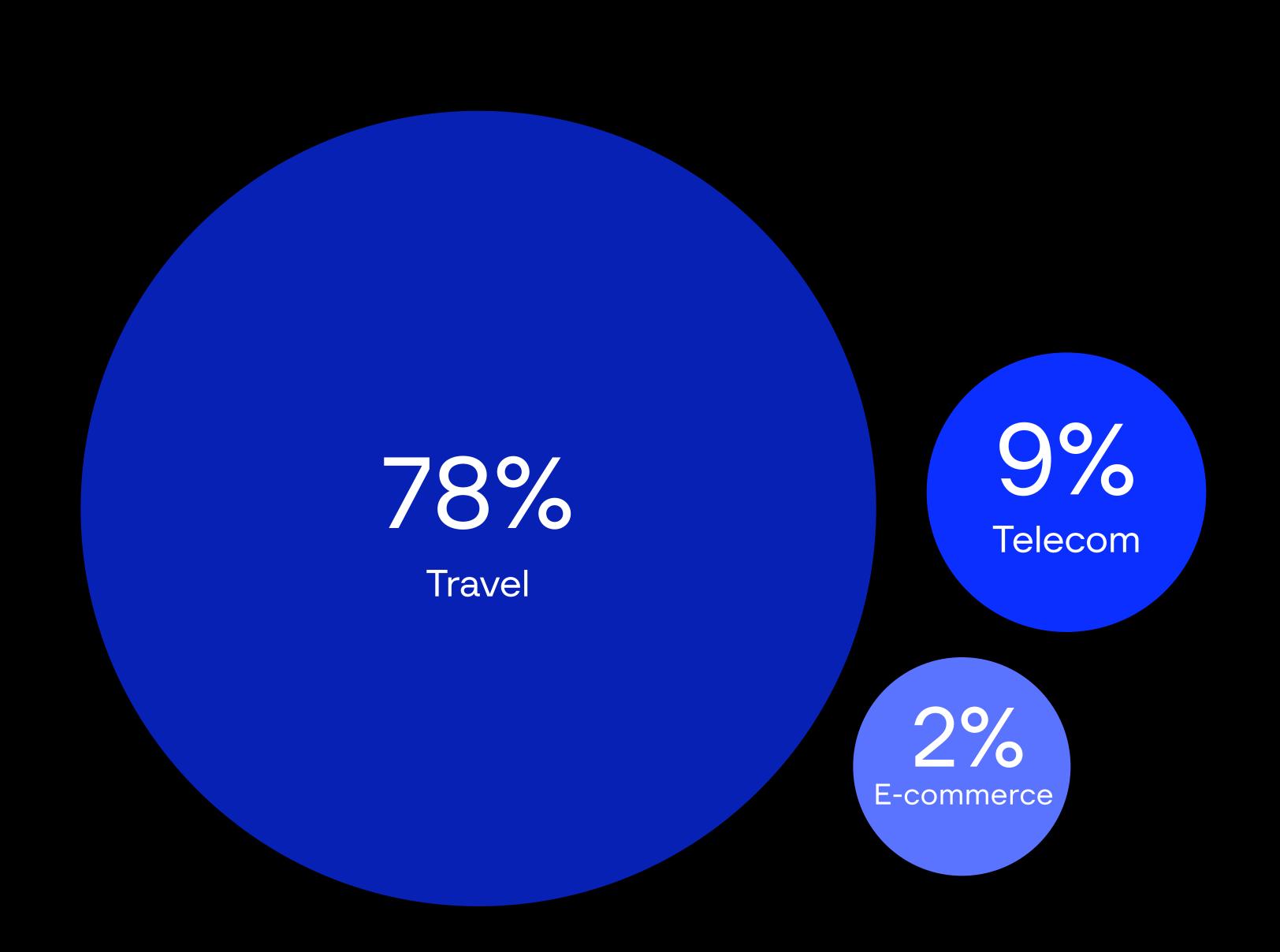
Government

Fraudsters impersonate representatives of government agencies and threaten victims into surrendering money or sensitive information.





Scams at scale: Where the focus lies



Key tactics

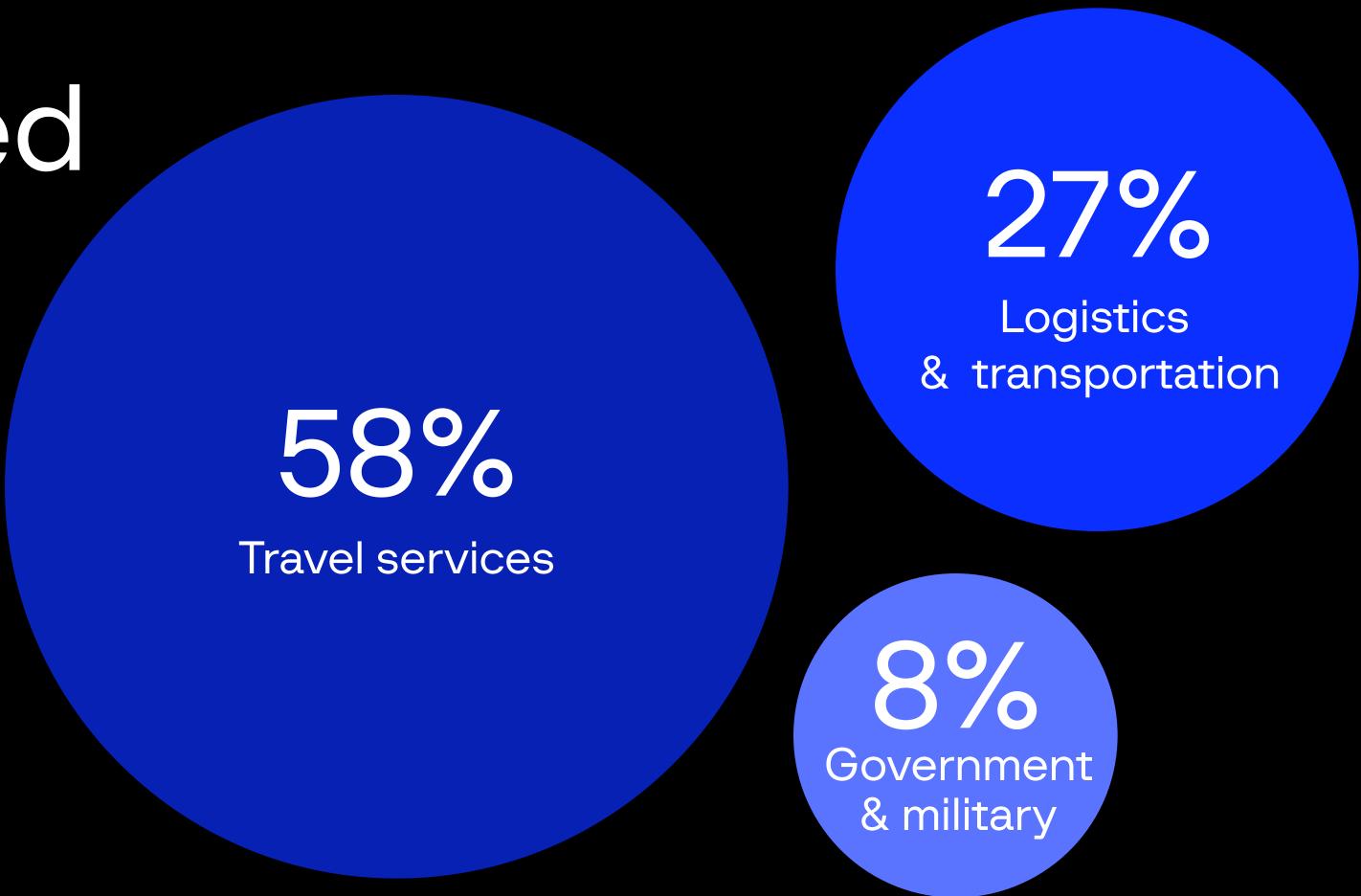


Phishing content is now delivered only after it has been confirmed that the victim is a viable target — often by requesting a phone number, national ID, or other official data.

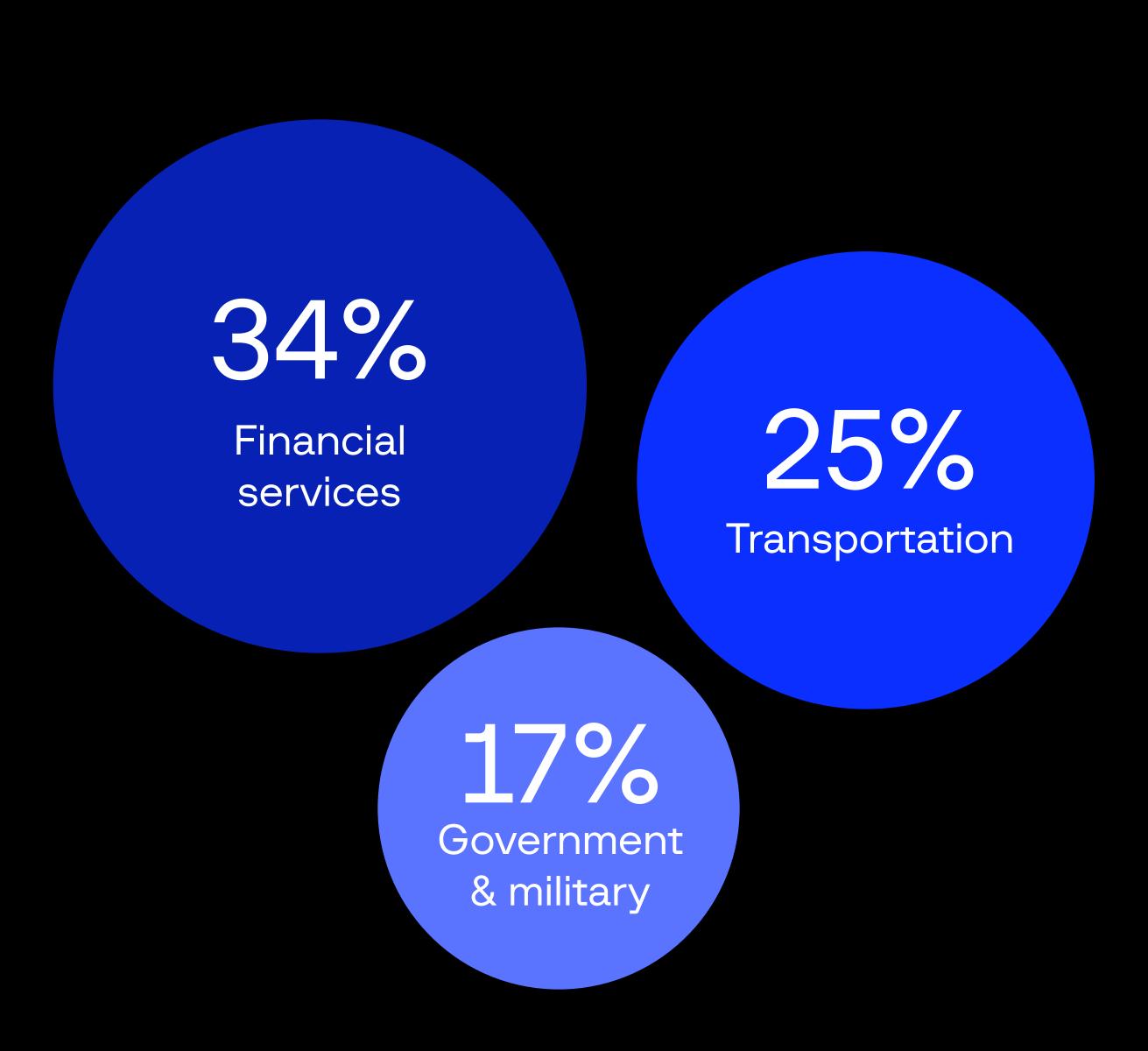
The "verification" step helps criminals avoid being detected by law enforcement and cybersecurity companies.



Europe: Top industries targeted by phishing



Europe: Top industries targeted by scams



Key scheme: Tax scam



Scammers impersonate representatives of tax authorities to deceive individuals into paying fake debts, disclosing personal information, and making money transfers under false pretenses.



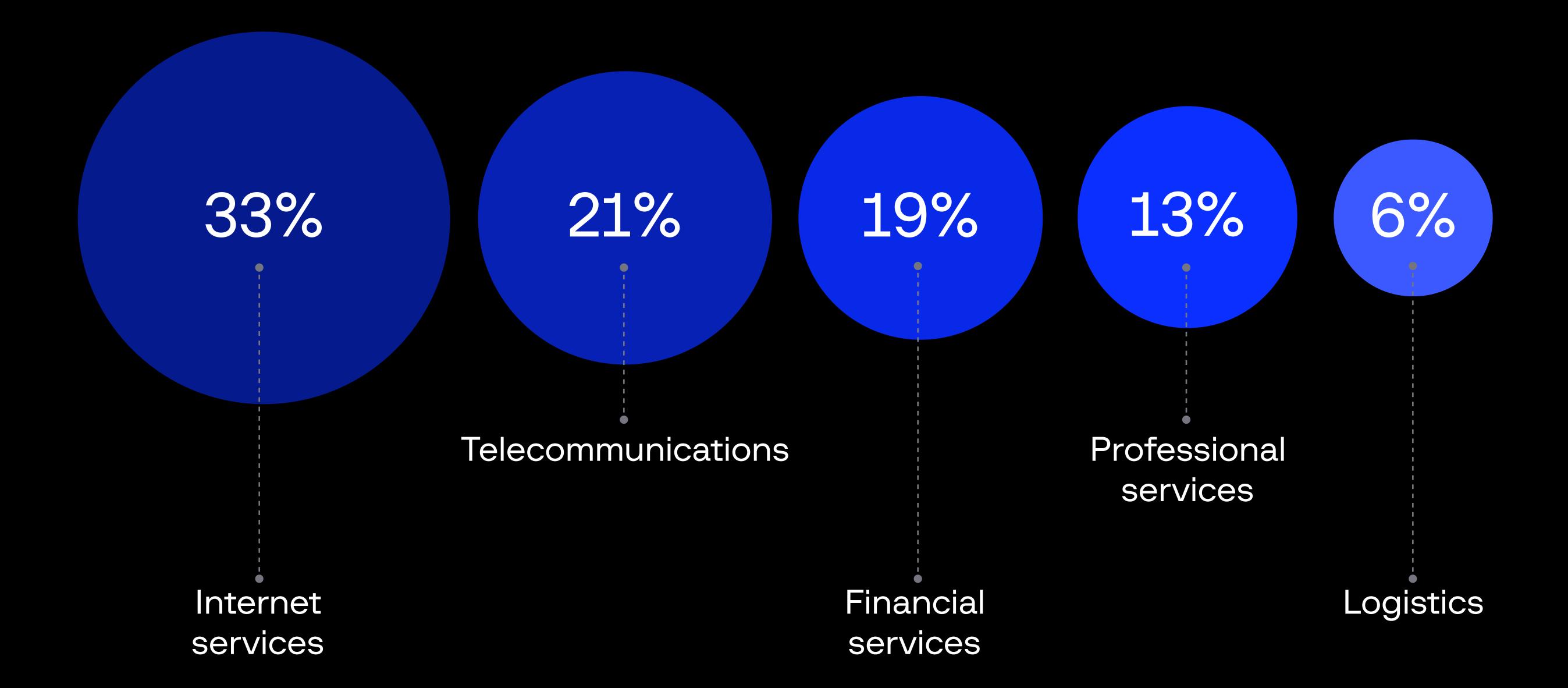
Navigating the digital threat landscape in the Middle East and Africa

Phishing attacks

Internet services are the most frequently targeted sector, reflecting cybercriminals' strategy of exploiting high-traffic online platforms.

Telecommunications and financial services follow closely, with professional services and logistics also facing notable threats amid the region's expanding digital ecosystem.

Middle East and Africa: Top industries targeted by phishing attacks in 2024

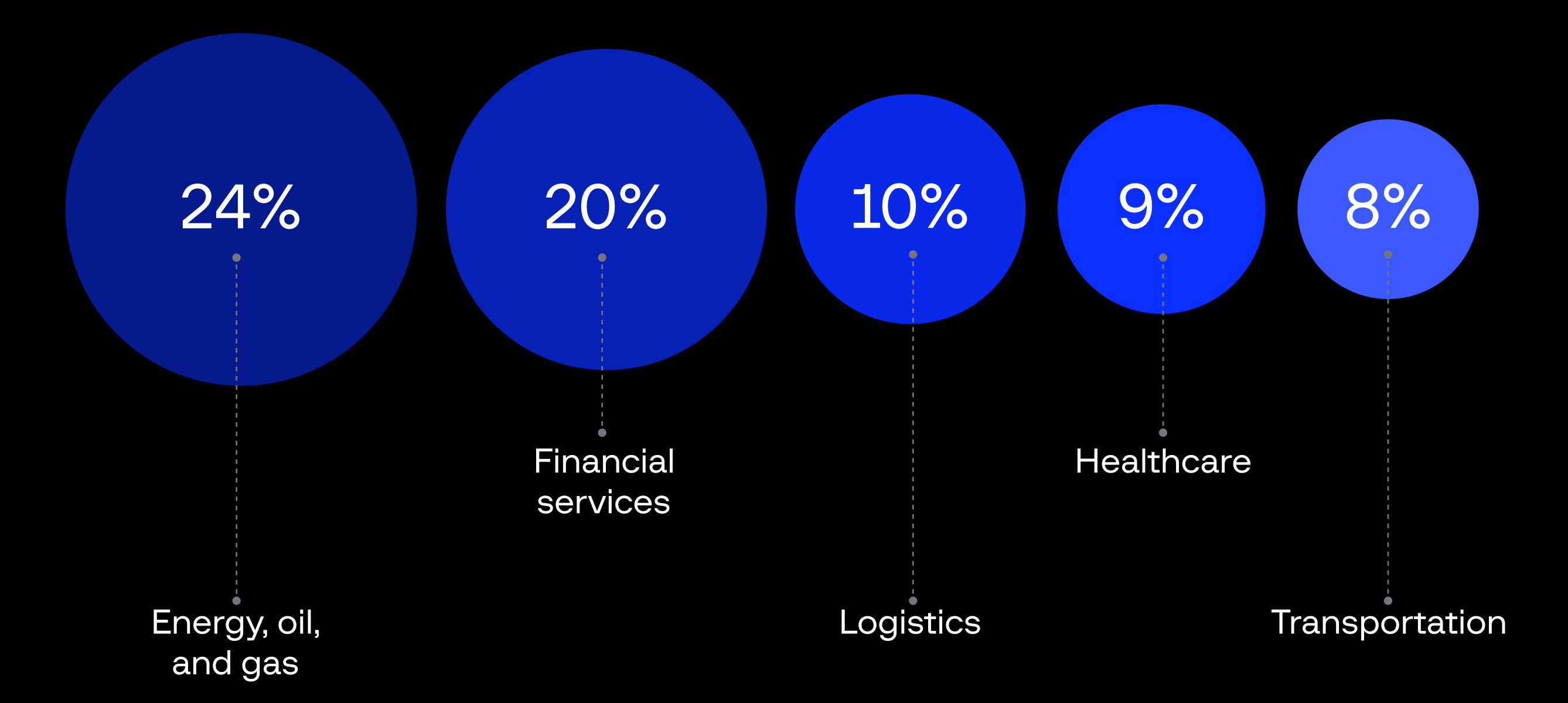


Scams

Energy, oil, and gas top the scam targets, reflecting cybercriminals' focus on the region's economy, critical infrastructure and the potential for high-stakes disruption or ransom.

Financial services remain a close second, with attackers exploiting sensitive data and transaction-based systems, while logistics, healthcare, and transportation also experience significant scam activity aimed at both monetary gain and operational interference.

Middle East and Africa: Top industries targeted by scams in 2024



The most pressing digital threats in 2024

VIP impersonation and deepfake fraud

Cybercriminals are leveraging Al-generated deepfake voices and videos to impersonate high-level executives and trick employees into transferring money or sharing sensitive data.

Religious and charity scams

Scammers exploit cultural and religious events like Ramadan and Hajj, creating fake donation campaigns to steal money.

Scam-as-a-service (Classiscam)

Cybercriminals leverage Telegram bots to generate fake courier and payment service pages, tricking victims into revealing their personal and financial details.

Fake investment schemes

Al-generated scam pages and WhatsApp campaigns lure victims with "Al-powered" trading platforms, promising false high returns.

HR and job vacancy scams

Fake job postings impersonate well-known brands to collect personal data and scam job seekers.

Protect your digital assets with Group-IB

15

years of experience in Digital Risk Protection

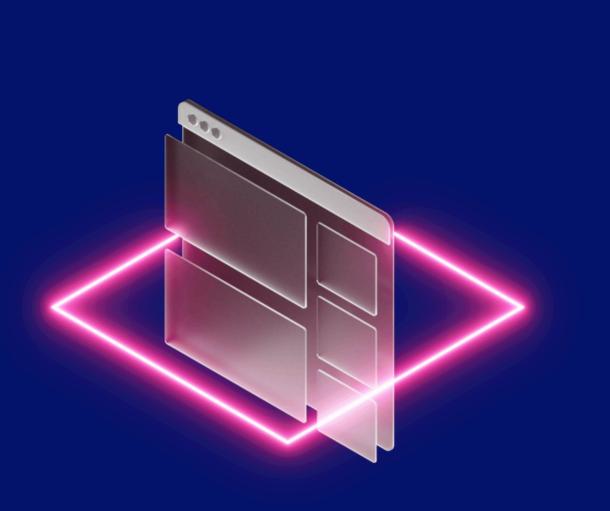
Collaboration with law enforcement and CERT teams to disrupt fraud networks

90%

success rate in scam and phishing takedowns

60+

professional analysts globally



Group-IB
Digital Risk Protection

Learn more about it