Maritime Cyber Security Fatality File

Port of Houston Breach

In a good example of cyber resilience, the Port of Houston reportedly contained a targeted cyberattack in August 2021, resulting in minimal damage.

From information that was shared, it appears that the incident occurred when cybercriminals exploited a vulnerability in a password manager, to breach the port’s network. From there, they attempted to escalate the breach to gain access to other systems.

The Port of Houston’s IT team apparently detected the breach quickly, however, and took steps to mitigate it. No sensitive data was exposed, and no systems were apparently disrupted, according to the port (which reported the attack about a month after it occurred and did not release details regarding how long cybercriminals were active or the exact extent of the breach).