

NEWSLETTER

Everything your office needs to know about ransomware

What is Ransomware?

Ransomware is malicious software that holds data files hostage pending the payment of a ransom, typically using an untraceable currency known as bitcoin.

How does it work?

Ransomware encrypts files, preventing access to them. Absent the victim's ability to restore a backup of the infected files, the cybercriminal behind the attack holds the encryption keys required to access the files until the ransom demand is met.



Ransomware is Big Business:

The incident rate of this form of extortion is escalating to epidemic levels. According to the FBI, cybercriminals collected \$209 million in the first three months of 2016, a run rate that represents a \$1 billion business.



Targeting a Global Market:

While ransomware attacks on the health care industry have been widely publicized due to their boldness and implications to patient care, large and small education, public, and private sector entities are also targeted.



Exploiting the Human Vulnerability:

While attack methods can vary, the easiest way into a system is through its users via socially engineered attacks such as spear phishing. The top entry points for ransomware include email attachments and links.



How Can I Protect My Business?

1. Invest in anti-virus software (we recommend using Trend Micro's *Worry Free Business Security* and *Hosted Email Security*)
2. Keep your software, programs, and applications up to date (including your operating systems)
3. Limit internet access on work computers
4. Implement a disaster recovery plan that includes making daily back-ups to ensure you can quickly recover and restore any data that is lost to an attack (we recommend using *Intronis Cloud Backup and Recovery*)
5. Train your staff - they are both your first, and last line of defense.

LEARN MORE:

Additional knowledgebase articles and training resources can be found online at www.strongtc.com/resources

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