



The Investigator Newsletter

Ransomware



Ransomware Explained: Types, Risks, and Prevention Tips

About Us

Since 2000, BCSI Investigations Inc. has performed thousands of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted promptly with leading-edge techniques.

Ransomware

Ransomware is a kind of malware that can be installed on a computer. It encrypts all the victims' personal data and prevents them from accessing it. The only way for them to get their computer back is by paying the ransom, often through cryptocurrency, to prevent it from being traced back to the hackers.

How does it work

The most common way ransomware is downloaded is through a phishing email. Once the link is clicked, it will automatically download the malware. Then, the data is encrypted.

Ransomware only needs access to your files to encrypt them and, in many cases, steal the data. Lastly, the hacker will request a ransom. The ransom note is built into the ransomware, often appearing in the computer's background or placed in each encrypted file.

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Types of Ransomware

- Double extortion
- Data encryption and theft
- Triple extortion
- Demanding ransom from the victim's customers or partners, as well as the victim
- Locker ransomware
- Locks the computer instead of encrypting files
- Wiper
- Similar encryption technique, but wipes all the files from the computer

Prevention

The best way to prevent it from happening is through cybersecurity awareness. This prevents people from clicking on phishing emails. Companies and individuals should continuously back up their data onto hard drives. This means you have a backup of all files, so if they are stolen, it doesn't matter.

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