

Ransomware: What you really, really need to know

What it is: Ransomware will lock all available files on your computer system and make you pay for a code in order to restore them. It may also lead to all of your files being lost!

Who is affected: Ransomware can affect any business. If you fall for it, it will infiltrate your system, regardless of company size. It mostly affects Windows systems.

Do	Why?
Backup your computer somewhere you cannot always access. The more often the better.	Ransomware will encrypt anything it has access to, including network drives, Box, and any system that acts as external storage.
Have a disaster recovery plan.	Ransomware can be a tried and true disaster. Make sure you have planned for it and tested every option.
Train your people, even in a small company	Training is the best defense as people are the weak link when exposed to Ransomware!
Use a Firewall	Some Ransomware just attack through known security issues, make sure it can't get through a business class firewall.
Use IPS/IDS	Intrusion Detection and Intrusion Prevention can detect an attack as it gets in. It also offers protection for your users when they are in the wrong place.
Use Antivirus	Like it or not, Antivirus saves people all the time. The statistics are indisputable. Make sure you pick a good "not free" version of a trusted antivirus.
Use a DNS protection system	Sometimes a layer is something that will save you. Consider an extra layer of Protection like Umbrella.
Know who to call	Whether it is for Ransomware or other questions, don't rely just on internet searches, look for a credible company to help you when you don't know, and avoid being part of the statistics.

Don't	Why?
Open emails from unknown sources	Ransomware will encrypt anything it has access to, including network drives, Box, and systems that act as external storage.
Underestimate the threat	No one is safe from Ransomware
Pass on updates or security patches	Many Ransomware exploits are solved quickly in patches. Waiting to patch your system could leave you vulnerable.
Keep your data only on site	Remember that you should keep several copies of your data: 3 copies, 2 media types, 1 off site.