What is Ransomware?

Ransomware is a type of malware. Like other types of malware, it commonly infects your computer when you open an infected email attachment or click on a malicious link. What makes ransomware unique is what happens after it infects your device:

It takes over the data on your computer, usually encrypting it

You receive a notice that you can no longer access your data until you pay a ransom. Cyber criminals may also threaten to publicly release your data if you don't pay the ransom.

3 key steps to protect yourself and our data are:

Make sure the operating systems, programs, and apps you use are always updated and current

Make sure you are running the latest version of anti-virus software

Be suspicious of any urgent messages pressuring you into clicking a link, installing software, or opening an email attachment

You are ultimately our best defense against cyber attacks. If you think you are infected and receive a ransomware demand, report it right away!

SANS SECURITY AWARENESS

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