

Ransomware

In This Module

- What is ransomware, and who can be targeted by ransomware attacks?
- What can you do if you are the victim of a ransomware attack?
- How can you avoid ransomware?

Ransomware

Ransomware is a type of malware that prevents a user from accessing their systems or files on computing devices, including computers and phones

Ransomware is used by cybercriminals as a way to essentially hold a device hostage for money

Activity

Have you heard of ransomware attacks in the news before? What comes to mind for you?

Ransomware Attacks

How does ransomware get onto a device? This can happen in a few different ways:

- A link containing malware
- An attachment containing malware
- A user visits a malicious website that contains malware
- A user falls for a phishing scheme
- A user falls for a social engineering scheme

Ransomware Attacks

Once ransomware is on a device, the attack commences:

- The ransomware proceeds to infect your system and encrypt files
- The ransomware locks the user out of their systems and files
- The cybercriminals running the attack then demand ransom money to release the system and files

The worst ransomware attacks encrypt files, but others lock you out of your system or just bombard you with pop-up ads until you pay the ransom

Who Is Targeted by Ransomware?

Ransomware is mostly used to target small and medium businesses. This is because these businesses might lack the resources to have a lot of IT staff and data security practices.

However, cybercriminals are increasingly using ransomware to attack anyone and everyone, from large corporations to government and public sector agencies to individuals.

Handling a Ransomware Attack

- Identify the ransomware
- Report the attack
- Avoid paying the ransom
- Isolate the infected device or devices
- Restore your system
- Start over

Avoiding Ransomware Attacks

- Backup your data
- Be alert to malware and schemes
- Keep your security up-to-date
- Practice good cybersecurity

Activity

What are some ways that you can avoid falling prey to scams or malware?

Takeaways

- Ransomware is a type of malware that can infect and hold your computer or mobile device hostage
- Know what to do if you are the victim of a ransomware attack and try to avoid paying any ransom
- Remember, backing up your data and practicing good cybersecurity are ways to help you avoid falling prey to ransomware and to help you better manage a ransomware attack if it happens to you

Resources

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Ransomware Guide ([link](#))

NoMoreRansom.org ([link](#))

IDRansomware Tool ([link](#))

Questions?

NYC Digital Safety

Privacy & Security