

RANSOMWARE

Hostage Rescue Checklist



Cybercrime Has Gone Pro

Ransomware attacks cause downtime, data loss, possible intellectual property theft, and in certain industries a ransomware attack is considered a data breach.

Wouldn't it be great to have an actionable checklist of what to do when you get hit and how to prevent it in the future? Now you do!

- Ransomware Attack Response Checklist
- Ransomware Prevention Checklist

Don't be taken hostage by ransomware.

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KnowBe4 Ransomware Attack Response Checklist

STEP 1: Disconnect Everything

- ☐ a. Unplug computer from network
- ☐ b. Turn off any wireless functionality: Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC

STEP 2: Determine the Scope of the Infection, Check the Following for Signs of Encryption

- ☐ a. Mapped or shared drives
- ☐ b. Mapped or shared folders from other computers
- ☐ c. Network storage devices of any kind
- ☐ d. External Hard Drives
- ☐ e. USB storage devices of any kind
(USB sticks, memory sticks, attached phones/cameras)
- ☐ f. Cloud-based storage: DropBox, Google Drive, OneDrive etc.

STEP 3: Determine Ransomware Strain

- ☐ a. What strain/type of ransomware? For example: Cryptolocker, TeslaCrypt etc.

STEP 4: Determine Response

Now that you know the scope of your encrypted files as well as the strain of ransomware you are dealing with, you can make a more informed decision as to what your next action will be.

Response 1: Restore Your Files From Backup

- ☐ 1. Locate your backups
 - a. Ensure all files you need are there
 - b. Verify integrity of backups (i.e. media not reading or corrupted files)
 - c. Check for Shadow Copies if possible (may not be option on newer ransomware)
 - d. Check for any previous versions of files that may be stored on cloud storage e.g. DropBox, Google Drive, OneDrive
- ☐ 2. Remove the ransomware from your infected system
- ☐ 3. Restore your files from backups
- ☐ 4. Determine infection vector & handle



Response 2: Try to Decrypt

- ☐ 1. Determine strain and version of the ransomware if possible
- ☐ 2. Locate a decryptor, there may not be one for newer strains
If successful, continue steps...
- ☐ 3. Attach any storage media that contains encrypted files (hard drives, USB sticks etc.)
- ☐ 4. Decrypt files
- ☐ 5. Determine the infection vector & handle

Response 3: Do Nothing (Lose Files)

- ☐ 1. Remove the ransomware
- ☐ 2. Backup your encrypted files for possible future decryption (optional)

Response 4: Negotiate and/or Pay the Ransom

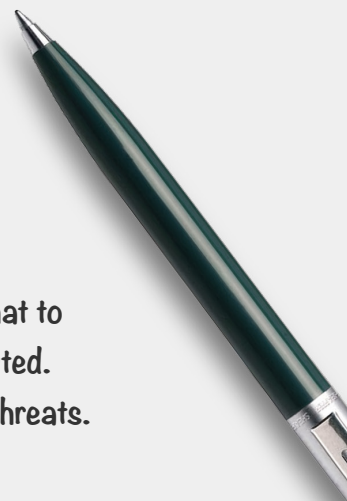
- ☐ 1. If possible, you may attempt to negotiate a lower ransom and/or longer payment period
- ☐ 2. Determine acceptable payment methods for the strain of ransomware: Bitcoin, Cash Card etc.
- ☐ 3. Obtain payment, likely Bitcoin:
 - a. Locate an exchange you wish to purchase a Bitcoin through (time is of the essence)
 - b. Set up account/wallet and purchase the Bitcoin
- ☐ 4. Re-connect your encrypted computer to the internet
- ☐ 5. Install the TOR browser (optional)
- ☐ 6. Determine the Bitcoin payment address. This is either located in the ransomware screen or on a TOR site that has been set up for this specific ransom case
- ☐ 7. Pay the ransom: Transfer the Bitcoin to the ransom wallet
- ☐ 8. Ensure all devices that have encrypted files are connected to your computer
- ☐ 9. File decryption should begin within 24 hours, but often within just a few hours
- ☐ 10. Determine infection vector and handle

STEP 5: Protecting Yourself in the Future

- ☐ a. Implement Ransomware Prevention Checklist to prevent future attacks



KnowBe4 Ransomware Prevention Checklist



First Line of Defense: Users

- ☐ 1. Implement effective security awareness training to educate users on what to look for to prevent criminal applications from being downloaded/executed.
- ☐ 2. Conduct simulated phishing attacks to inoculate users against current threats.

Second Line of Defense: Software

- ☐ 1. Ensure you have and are using a firewall.
- ☐ 2. Implement antispyware and/or antiphishing. This can be done either with software or through dedicated hardware such as SonicWALL or Barracuda devices.
- ☐ 3. Ensure everyone in your organization is using top notch up-to-date antivirus software, or more advanced endpoint protection products like whitelisting and/or real-time executable blocking. You could also use Microsoft's free AppLocker but it's a bit cumbersome.
- ☐ 4. Implement software restriction policies on your network to prevent unauthorized applications from running. (optional)
- ☐ 5. Implement a highly disciplined patch procedure that updates any and all applications that have vulnerabilities.

Third Line of Defense: Backups

- ☐ 1. Implement a backup solution: Software based, hardware based, or both.
- ☐ 2. Ensure all possible data you need to access or save is backed up, including mobile/USB storage.
- ☐ 3. Ensure your data is safe, redundant and easily accessible once backed up.
- ☐ 4. Regularly test the recovery function of your backup/restore procedure. Test the data integrity of physical backups and ease-of-recovery for online/software based backups.

Want to learn more?

Get the FULL 20-page Ransomware Hostage Rescue Manual. This is the most informative and complete Ransomware manual, packed with actionable info that you need to have to prevent infections, and what to do when you are hit with ransomware.

