

## 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?
<b>Backup your computer somewhere you cannot always access. The more often the better.</b>	Ransomware will encrypt anything it has access to, including network drives, Box, and any system that acts as external storage.
<b>Have a disaster recovery plan.</b>	Ransomware can be a tried and true disaster. Make sure you have planned for it and tested every option.
<b>Train your people, even in a small company</b>	Training is the best defense as people are the weak link when exposed to Ransomware!
<b>Use a Firewall</b>	Some Ransomware just attack through known security issues, make sure it can't get through a business class firewall.
<b>Use IPS/IDS</b>	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.
<b>Use Antivirus</b>	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.
<b>Use a DNS protection system</b>	Sometimes a layer is something that will save you. Consider an extra layer of Protection like Umbrella.
<b>Know who to call</b>	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?
<b>Open emails from unknown sources</b>	Ransomware will encrypt anything it has access to, including network drives, Box, and systems that act as external storage.
<b>Underestimate the threat</b>	No one is safe from Ransomware
<b>Pass on updates or security patches</b>	Many Ransomware exploits are solved quickly in patches. Waiting to patch your system could leave you vulnerable.
<b>Keep your data only on site</b>	Remember that you should keep several copies of your data: 3 copies, 2 media types, 1 off site.