

# THE ANATOMY OF A RANSOMWARE ATTACK

With ransomware attacks on the rise in recent years, protecting your business is more important than ever. Understanding how a ransomware attack occurs is the first step to safeguarding your business from malicious actors.



## 7 STEPS OF A RANSOMWARE ATTACK

### 1. A RANSOMWARE GANG FORMS

They can evolve organically, spawn from other groups or emerge from reorganized notorious gangs. Big-time ransomware gangs recruit affiliates and provide them with proprietary malware to launch attacks.

### 2. THE GANG BEGINS CHOOSING TARGETS

While ransomware gangs can attack virtually any industry, some industries, such as education, municipalities, healthcare, infrastructure and financial services, have proved to be lucrative targets over the past few years.



### 3. THE GANG STARTS PLANNING

Dark web forums are a common place for ransomware gangs to recruit specialists to carry out attacks. They also search dark web data markets and dumps for information about the target or its employees, such as stolen passwords and email addresses.

### 4. THEY LAUNCH THE ATTACK

Hackers use legitimate credentials to access a target's systems. To launch a ransomware attack, they typically use phishing as an attack vector.



### 5. THEY DEMAND A RANSOM

Even if you pay the ransom, chances are slim that you'll get your data back. Plus, paying the ransom wouldn't guarantee that the gang didn't copy your data or leave a backdoor to your system open.



### 6. THE CYBERCRIMINALS GET PAID

When the target refuses to pay the ransom, the cybercriminals can still profit by selling the victim's stolen data on the black market.

### 7. THE VICTIM TRIES TO RECOVER

The cost of mitigation and recovery adds up even if the victim doesn't pay the ransom. In addition, clients or partners whose data has been stolen may file expensive lawsuits against the breached company.

## HOW WE CAN HELP

Ransomware is a real threat to your business, but we can help you minimize the risks and combat ransomware effectively.

**CONTACT US TODAY** to get cybercriminals off your back and protect your business.



Total Networks