

Secure Networkers® IT NEWS BRIEF

MAY 2021

TO PAY, OR NOT TO PAY

Your files have been encrypted!

The debate has been raging for a while. When ransomware hits an organization, the decision must be made: “to pay up or not to pay up.” While it is easy to think of the dilemma strictly in academic terms, when not actually facing the crisis, the reality of a ransomware attack is paralyzing. In today’s threat landscape, it is full of many variables that may dictate how an organization believes it is to best respond, not only for the sake of self-preservation, but also for the sake of protecting customer information, vendors, and more.

Ransomers have expanded the types of pressure they can exert: nonpayment of the ransom may not merely risk data loss, it may risk data being exposed and sold. But ransom pay-

ment offers no guarantees. If an organization pays the ransom, it may save nothing. The greed of ransomers has resulted in the sale of stolen data on the dark webs, even though the ransom was paid. Businesses have no assurance that paying the ransom will rescue them at all. So, as a result, many refuse to pay.

WHO IS SAFE FROM A RANSOMWARE ATTACK?

Some believe that ransomers have proven to be selective with their targets, with the Healthcare industry being the most popular industry to be reported for ransomware and data breaches. But no industry is safe, and in actuality, surveys suggest that media industries and IT/

telecommunication industries fare the worst. As the Sophos report “The State of Ransomware” indicates, it is pervasive across all industries and it is a global problem. No one is safe.

Locking down a network to make it impervious to ransomware attack is daunting enough. It does not help that demands for remote workforces and device flexibility, which has been forced on companies, adds to the pressure. Both the global pandemic and the need to improve customer service options further complicates and decentralizes control over network security.

Something has got to give.

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PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS NETWORK FOR AN ACTIVE 2021 HURRICANE SEASON BACKUP AND DISASTER PLAN



Meteorological authorities at The Weather Company, which provides predictions to The Weather Channel, AccuWeather, and other reliable resources, anticipate 2021 to be an active hurricane season. Now is the time to prepare your business to be ready for the storm before it comes. Here are main concerns:

- [LEARN MORE](#) MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A RELIABLE BACKUP SERVICE
- [LEARN MORE](#) TEST BACKUP AND RECOVERY PROCESSES REGULARLY
- [LEARN MORE](#) REVIEW/UPDATE DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

A STRONG NETWORK

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VIRTUALIZATION

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