



BTS INFORMATION SECURITY NEWS

Ransomware Here to Stay

Ransomware is malware that infects machines and takes control of files so they can no longer be used or read. This type of malware is so lucrative that it's popularity has been increasing in the last few years. Google has found that in the last two years Cyber-thieves have made at least \$25 million. It is reported that currently they make \$1 million per month from ransomware. This revenue has inspired more criminal organizations and individuals to invest in ransomware. Common techniques include sending fake emails (phishing) into an organization tricking people into downloading the ransomware to infect the network.



STOP | THINK | CONNECT

Ransomware works because the phishing email convinces people to take inappropriate actions. Protecting information is a responsibility we all have. Follow the Stop, Think, Connect methods to reduce the risk of ransomware. Always Stop for a moment to Think about where you are going before you Connect.

- **Stop** - Take a moment to...
- **Think** - About your actions before you...
- **Connect** - To an unknown resource

Questions to consider:

Q: Have you viewed our information on Phishing?

A: City of Portland's Information Security has more information on how to identify phishing emails on our website.

Link: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bts/73699>

Q: Do I download from a legitimate website?

A: For the different software you may download make sure to validate that the website you use is the legitimate site.

When at home

The same techniques, Stop/Think/Connect will help to keep ransomware from infecting your home computer as well.

Understanding that phishing emails are common, and how to differentiate them will help with work and personal email.

Being cautious with where you download different software will also help you from infecting your own computer.

These steps can help you reduce the possibility of identify theft, and financial loss.

From the News:

"Ransomware is a fast-moving market. There's aggressive competition coming from [other ransomware]" - <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-40737060>



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Contact Us

For questions, concerns, or feedback regarding City information security please contact BTS InfoSec at:
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For all other BTS questions, please contact the BTS Help Desk:
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