

# How We Can Help You

- Scams and Safety
- Victims
- Students
- Parents, Caregivers, Teachers
- Businesses
- Law Enforcement
- More FBI Services and Information
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## Ransomware

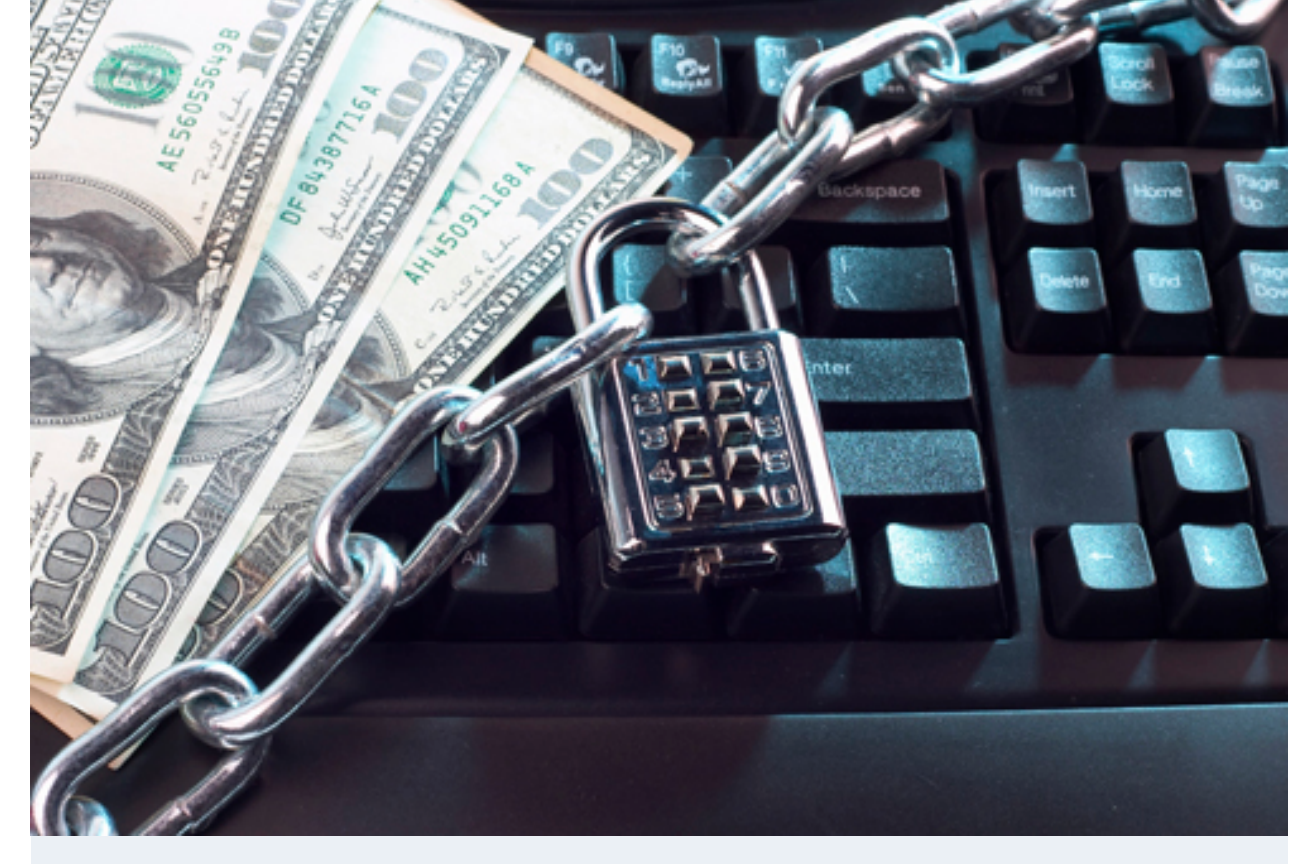
Ransomware is a type of malicious software—or malware—that prevents you from accessing your computer files, systems, or networks and demands you pay a ransom for their return.

Ransomware attacks can cause costly disruptions to operations and the loss of critical information and data.

You can unknowingly download ransomware onto a computer by opening an email attachment, clicking an ad, following a link, or even visiting a website that's embedded with malware.

Once the code is loaded on a computer, it will lock access to the computer itself or data and files stored there. More menacing versions can encrypt files and folders on local drives, attached drives, and even networked computers.

Most of the time, you don't know your computer has been infected. You usually discover it when you can no longer access your data or you see computer messages letting you know about the attack and demanding ransom payments.



### Report Ransomware

- Report ransomware attacks to [ic3.gov](https://ic3.gov), the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).

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## Protect Yourself

The best way to avoid being exposed to ransomware—or any type of malware—is to be a cautious and conscientious device user. Malware distributors have gotten increasingly savvy, and you need to be careful about what you download and click on.

Other tips:

- Keep operating systems, software, and applications current and up to date.
- Make sure anti-virus and anti-malware solutions are set to automatically update and run regular scans.
- Back up data regularly and double-check that those backups were completed.
- Secure your backups. Make sure they are not connected to the computers and networks they are backing up.
- Create a continuity plan in case your business or organization is the victim of a ransomware attack.

## If You're a Victim

The FBI does not support paying a ransom in response to a ransomware attack. Paying a ransom doesn't guarantee you or your organization will get any data back. It also encourages perpetrators to target more victims and offers an incentive for others to get involved in this type of illegal activity.

If you are a victim of ransomware, file a report at [ic3.gov](https://ic3.gov).

## News and Resources

### Information from IC3

**02.04.2021** [Ransomware: What It Is & What To Do About It \(pdf\)](#)

This fact sheet provides the public with important information on the current ransomware threat and the government's response, as well as common infection vectors, tools for attack prevention, and important contacts in the event of a ransomware attack.

**10.02.2019** [High Impact Ransomware Attacks Threaten U.S. Businesses and Organizations](#)

Although state and local governments have been particularly visible targets for ransomware attacks, ransomware actors have also targeted health care organizations, industrial companies, and the transportation sector.

### News

- 10.01.2024** [Russian National Indicted for Series of Ransomware Attacks](#)
- 08.12.2024** [International Investigation Leads to Shutdown of Ransomware Group](#)
- 07.18.2024** [Two Foreign Nationals Plead Guilty to Participation in LockBit Ransomware Group](#)
- 05.01.2024** [Sodinokibi/REvil Affiliate Sentenced for Role in \\$700 Million Ransomware Scheme](#)
- 09.07.2023** [Multiple Foreign Nationals Charged in Connection with Trickbot Malware and Conti Ransomware Conspiracies](#)
- 11.10.2022** [Russian and Canadian National Charged for Participation in Lockbit Global Ransomware Campaign](#)
- 10.04.2022** [Canadian National Sentenced in Connection with Ransomware Attacks Resulting in the Payment of Tens of Millions of Dollars in Ransoms](#)

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