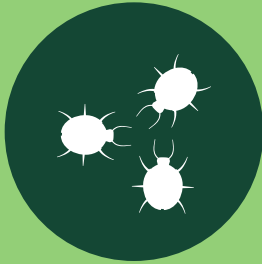# Everything You Need To Know About
Ransomware

What is Ransomware?

It's a type of computer virus or malware that threatens to publish a victim's data or perpetually block access to it unless a ransom is paid, typically in bitcoin.

Attacks are on the Rise

Ransomware attacks are happening more frequently in the past five years. The number of attacks have increased nearly 200% since 2017.

Who is a target?

Anyone. Most common targets: small-to-medium businesses, school districts, municipalities, healthcare agencies and financial institutions.

How does it happen?

Ransomware can be the result of many different things, but often, it comes from a **phishing email**, a **malicious download** or an **exploited software security** vulnerability.

Help prevent attacks

Awareness is key! **Do not click on suspicious links**, **do not download unknown software**, **install virus protection**, **use an enterprise firewall**, **email filtering** and **follow your company's policies and procedures.**

What if it happens to you

Invest in **Cyber Insurance** in the event that an attack does happen. **Report the incident** to the authorities and **seek out an incident response team**. Experts suggest not paying the ransom, because there is no guarantee they will cooperate.

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