



How to Protect Your Business Against Malware and Ransomware with Outsourced IT Services

Is your data important? How would it impact your business if you were locked out of your computers, or lost internet access? What if all the files your business relies on – accounting records, client files, purchasing records – were to suddenly become inaccessible? This is the reality faced by businesses that have failed to take the appropriate precautions to protect their network and their systems from computer viruses such as malware and ransomware.

Malware is a broad category of computer viruses that can do various nasty things to your computers and data. Among other things, it can lock access to your files, block internet access, or restrict what programs you can use on your computer. For instance, malware frequently disables Internet Explorer or Microsoft Office applications such as Excel or Word – both of which are critical to many businesses.

Malware creators will often demand payment in order to restore the user's files or program access. Ransomware, such as Cryptolocker, goes a step further by encrypting user data, rendering the files unusable and inaccessible unless the victim pays a ransom – often between \$300 and \$500 – for the necessary encryption key to decrypt the files.

Paying this ransom is no guarantee you will actually be able to recover your files, as one Charlotte, NC law firm learned in 2014. Despite paying the virus originator \$300, the firm was unable to recover any of their files. The firm lost access to thousands of client files.

Both types of infections often come from e-mails or web sites, and both can spread quickly through a computer network to infect all computers and files in your business. Anti-virus software can help protect your business from these threats, but it is only the beginning. Real protection requires a multi-level approach combining an active, managed antivirus and threat detection system, with a robust, managed firewall.

Understanding and implementing these systems correctly requires a trained, professional IT staff that has the training and experience necessary to protect your business.

We can help. Our managed IT services can give your business the support and the tools it needs to be safe against ransomware and malware. We can take care of all your IT needs, so you can concentrate on making your business successful. [Contact us](#) for assistance with malware issues and other security concerns.



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