

# HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST RANSOMWARE

FOR HOME USERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Ransomware is a form of malicious software (malware) that enables cyber criminals to remotely lock down or encrypt the files on your device. Criminals use ransomware to extort money from you (a ransom), before they restore your access to the computer or mobile device. Fraudsters will often create authentic looking emails purporting to be from genuine companies in order to deliver the ransomware.

If you are a business, charity or other organisation which is currently suffering a live cyber attack (in progress), please call 0300 123 2040 immediately.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, please report it to Action Fraud at [ActionFraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk)



## UPDATES

Install the latest software and app updates on all of your devices. These updates will often contain important security upgrades which help protect your device from viruses and hackers.



## ANTI-VIRUS

Install anti-virus software on all of your devices and configure it to automatically update. Run a complete scan of your system to check for any malware infections.



## BACKUPS

Backup all of your important data to a storage device that won't be left connected to your computer or network, such as an external hard drive, or an online backup service.