

YOUR PERSONAL FILES
ARE ENCRYPTED

Make payment or
will be de

Protecting Yourself From Ransomware

Guide



Privacy Rights
Clearinghouse

Ransomware is a type of malware that locks the you out of your computer or mobile device—demanding payment (often virtual currency like Bitcoin) to restore access (no guarantee you'll regain access if you pay). While medical facilities, universities and government agencies are prime targets for these attacks, anyone can be a victim.

PAY NOW
UNLOCK YOUR SYSTEM

Stay Updated

No matter which operating system you use, it's important to update it and your apps regularly. As hackers are always finding new ways to get through your software's defenses, software companies often release security updates to combat them. It's best to set your operating system and apps to update automatically.

Get Protected

Make sure you have good anti-virus protection installed on your computer/mobile devices.



Be Careful

Don't open email attachments from someone you don't know. Even if you think you know (or actually know) the person who sent the email, it's good to be careful before opening any attachments you weren't expecting (people can make it look like the message came from someone that you know or the person's account could've been compromised) so save the attachments to your computer and scan them with your anti-virus before opening them.

It's also important to never open links that are in an email unless you're certain they are safe.

Back It Up

Be sure to back up all your important data. While your computer/mobile device could be expensive, it's replaceable—your data might not be. There are many hardware (flash drives, external hard drives), software (archiving or disk imaging programs) and cloud backup solutions to safeguard your data.



**Millions
Impacted by
Data Breaches**

**Our
Reality**



No comprehensive
Right to Privacy



Little Trust
in those who **collect, use**
and **share** our data



Lack of Power
to protect our privacy

Protecting Privacy for All

Our
Mission

Since 1992, Privacy Rights Clearinghouse has been **protecting privacy for all** by **empowering individuals** and **advocating for positive change**.

We focus exclusively on consumer privacy rights and issues, and strive to provide clarity on complex topics by **publishing extensive educational materials** and directly **answering people's questions**. We are also **amplifying the public's voice** through their individual stories—often underrepresented in policy discussions—in our work **championing strong privacy protections**.

We hope that this resource has been useful. If you would like to support the development and creation of further educational materials, please consider donating to our organization.

[privacyrights.org/donate](https://www.privacyrights.org/donate)

A woman in a dark blue dress is standing and presenting to a group of people seated around a table in a meeting room. She is pointing at a whiteboard. The whiteboard has a table with columns labeled 'In progress', 'Todo', 'DONE', and 'PLAN'. The 'Todo' column has 'consumer base' and '100%'. The 'DONE' column has 'Online'. The 'PLAN' column has 'Recommend the end' and 'MEMBERSHIP Request TO Pat. meet'. There are also some sticky notes on the board. The background shows a large window with a view of a city and a blue sky. The image is overlaid with a large orange curved shape and a dark blue curved shape.

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse

3033 5th Avenue
Suite 223
San Diego, CA 92103

O : (619) 298-3396

F : (619) 255-4719

privacyrights.org