

NCSC Advice Following International Cyber Attack

Dear Watch Member,

Since the coordinated ransomware attack on thousands of organisations across many countries on Friday, there have been no sustained new attacks of that kind. But it is important to understand that the way these attacks work means that compromises of machines and networks that have already occurred may not yet have been detected, and that existing infections can spread within networks.

As the new working week begins it is likely, in the UK and elsewhere, that further cases of ransomware may come to light, possibly at a significant scale.

Our national focus is on two lines of defence.

The first is to limit the spread and impact of attacks that have already occurred, a variety of tools are now available to help organisations and individuals do this. Guidance can be found on The National Cyber Security Centre's homepage – [ncsc.gov.uk](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk)

NCSC have set out two sets of guidance: one for organisations and one for individuals and SMEs, applicable regardless of the age of the software in question.

There have already been attempted attacks beyond the National Health Service. It is therefore imperative that any organisation that believes they may be affected, follows the guidance.

Secondly, it is possible that a ransomware attack of this scale could recur, though we have no specific evidence that this is the case. What is certain is that ransomware attacks are immediately damaging and affect home users, enterprises and governments equally.

Home users and small businesses can take some simple defences against ransomware:

- Run [Windows Update](#)
- Ensure your antivirus is up to date and run a scan
- Ensure you back up important data (stored separately from your home network) – you can't be held to ransom for data you have elsewhere.

Visit www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance for more details.

If you need to reply regarding this message, click on this email address: jennifer.morris@herts.pnn.police.uk

Regards,

Jenny Morris

County Administrator

Neighbourhood Watch

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