



Digital Safety Moment

Ransomware – A Threat to Our Information

Ransomware encrypts (scrambles) the files stored on the infected computer, along with any files stored on the network that the infected user is able to access. Once encrypted, the files are lost and must be recovered from a backup, unless you pay the criminals \$500 to \$1,000 for the key to recover the files.

Ransomware is typically spread via phishing emails, but can also be installed by visiting a website that has a malicious ad placed on it by cyber criminals or has been hacked by cyber criminals.

Here's what you need to do:

- **Think before you click.** Use caution with emails containing links or attachments that you were not expecting.
- **Keep files backed up.** Network drives are backed up nightly, but not the files on the computer itself (the C: drive). Keep your business documents saved to the network drives (O: and P: drives). How about the files on your home computer, are they backed up?

Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of Safety."

