



\*\*\*CYBER ATTACK RISK UPDATE FROM NTEGRITY\*\*\*

By Gary Horswell – Managing Director

You will be aware that there has been a large scale Cyber Attack that hit the news on Friday and is expected to escalate again today.

Ransomware is spread via an attachment to a phishing email and then exploits a vulnerability in older machines (e.g. those running **Microsoft Windows XP**) that have not had Microsoft security updates applied. As well as encrypting files on the infiltrated PC, the virus also makes contact with all other machines accessible from the encrypted machine.

Businesses affected will need their 'IT heroes' to rectify the problems experienced but there are some things we can all address to help:

- ✓ Remind staff to be extra vigilant with email; especially when opening attachments. Remind staff not to open attachments unless they have confirmed with the sender that they intended to send it and not use personal webmail on work PCs.
- ✓ Be extra vigilant when browsing the internet and avoid unnecessary browsing.
- ✓ If you use old operating software such as **Microsoft Windows XP** (Microsoft stopped supporting this in April 2014!) try to upgrade it as soon as possible.
- ✓ Adopt a managed approach to Windows Updates on an ongoing basis to keep your systems as up to date as possible with the latest security fixes/updates.
- ✓ Ensure you have effective up to date Anti-Virus solution in place.
- ✓ A robust backup process is essential (don't just run it, test it periodically!) as this will reduce data loss in the event of your system becoming infected.
- ✓ Don't pay any ransom – remember this is a criminal act and there is no reason to expect an honest transaction. Paying will only encourage other attacks.

While businesses are increasingly interested in Cyber insurance and many of the policies available are supplied with incident support teams, the scope of cover varies greatly and insurance is no substitute for considering and managing the risks you face.

For any help or support on this contact Ntegrity's team on 01454 800 800.

## ENDS

This update is produced by Gary Horswell, MD of [Ntegrity](#) who are UK200Group Business Partners specialising in PII, cyber, directors & officers liability and other closely related areas too.

The [UK200Group](#) is the UK's leading membership organisation of chartered accountancy and law firms proving its members with support in business development, delivery and risk reduction. Our members represent around 150,000 SMEs across the UK.

For more information on the UK200Group and our Campaign for Clarity on MTD, click [here](#) or visit [www.uk200group.co.uk](http://www.uk200group.co.uk) For Further information contact: [admin@uk200group.co.uk](mailto:admin@uk200group.co.uk)