



HIGH-TECH HIJACKING

Ransomware remains a growing cyberthreat.

Stop! Don't click that e-mail link until you're sure it's legit, otherwise you may inadvertently infect your computer, phone or other device with **ransomware**: a pernicious form of malware (malicious software) that restricts access to your digital resources. A favorite tool of high-tech hijackers, ransomware is capable of holding a computer system or network hostage until payment is made. Attacks can be crippling and they are on the rise—expected to cost organizations \$20 billion worldwide this year. Individual consumers can also feel the sting as revealed by the ransomware incident last May that hobbled the Colonial Pipeline along the East Coast of the U.S., impacting millions of gas-seeking motorists. More than half of companies affected by these attacks say their brand has suffered significantly, with 66% of respondents claiming major revenue loss and 25% saying that their business had to temporarily shut down. While nearly three-quarters of firms say they have a plan to manage these events, many still remain highly concerned about the risk. And who could blame them? **IQ** —*Scott Steinberg*

Primary statistical source: cybereason.com/hubfs/dam/collateral/ebooks/Cybereason_Ransomware_Research_2021.pdf; unless otherwise stated, all figures are global.

BUSINESS EXPENSE

Ransomware attacks are not always reported, so the numbers could be much worse than what can actually be confirmed. In the U.S. alone last year, total business losses due to ransomware jumped 225% over the year before.

\$20B

TOTAL COST OF DAMAGE ransomware is expected to inflict on businesses by the end of 2021—57 times more than in 2015.

475

OF ORGANIZATIONS are highly or very concerned about the risk of ransomware attacks.

151%

PERCENTAGE BY WHICH ransomware attacks have increased year over year in the first half of 2021 alone.

\$40M

ONE OF THE LARGEST known ransomware demands paid to hackers by a company to date.

21 DAYS

Typical amount of downtime that companies experience due to a ransomware attack.

11 SECONDS

Estimated frequency of ransomware attacks hitting organizations in 2021.

273

OF BUSINESSES have suffered significant revenue loss due to ransomware.

\$1.85M

Average remediation costs for an enterprise that sustains a ransomware attack in 2021.

80%

PERCENTAGE OF ORGANIZATIONS that paid a ransomware demand that have suffered another attack.

JUST_SUPER/ISTOCK