

MALWARE ON THE UPSWING - ~~BUSINESSES~~ USERS BEWARE!



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We've all heard the term "malware" but what exactly is it and what does it mean for your business? According to Wikipedia, it is "*Software that is intended to damage or disable computers and computer systems.*" A Panda Security article dated November 24, 2014 stated this: "***Malware figures beat records with more than 20 million new samples identified in the third quarter of the year.***"

So how in the world are you supposed to protect your business against 20 million new samples (per quarter!) of malware? Well I hate to say it, but even the best anti-virus out there may not do the trick. **A layered security defense along with USER EDUCATION should be one of your top business priorities in 2015!**

Let's take a look at the most common types of malware:

- **Ransomware:** Ransomware is currently the most dangerous threat to you and your company! It is exactly what it sounds like. Ransomware encrypts the user's personal and company data or may even lock the entire PC. You are asked to pay a "ransom" via an anonymous service in order to unlock your computer.
- **Virus:** A computer virus spreads itself by smuggling its code into another program. Not only does a computer virus spread many times and make the host software unusable, but also exhibits malicious behavior.
- **Keyloggers:** Keyloggers secretly record everything you type on your keyboard, which allows attackers to get their hands on your passwords or other important data such as online banking details.
- **Backdoor/Bot:** A backdoor is a portion of code that is usually implemented into a program by the software's author, to enable access to your PC or an otherwise protected software function. Backdoors are often installed by Trojans so that the attacker can gain direct access to your PC.
- **Spyware:** Spyware is software that spies on you by collecting various types of user data from your PC
- **Adware:** Adware is derived from the word "advertisement". Adware itself is not dangerous, but the display of countless adverts is considered undesirable and is thus detected by good anti-malware solutions.
- **Rogues/Scareware:** Rogues pretend to be security software. They frequently use fake warnings to trick users into purchasing the software, which the attackers then profit from illegally.

Be SURE your users know about these types of malware and HOW to avoid them. One wrong click could cost your business valuable time and money!

If you're interested in learning more about how SSE can help you establish a layered defense system and/or help educate your users on HOW to avoid malware, or if you simply just want to check see if any unwanted malware has made itself "at home" on your network, contact us today. Call 314-439-4700 or email info@sseinc.com for more information.