

agriculture, environmental affairs, rural development and land reform

Department: agriculture, environmental affairs, rural development and land reform . NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Don't Get Locked Out!

Understanding Ransomware and Keeping Your Data Safe

Security Article 07 - 2024

What is Ransomware?

 Ransomware is like a mischievous program that scrambles your files, making them impossible to open until you find the "key." It sneaks in through suspicious emails, dodgy downloads, or software cracks. The bad guys then ask for a ransom, usually in Bitcoin, to give you the key back.



Imagine Your Computer Going on Strike!

 Ransomware can hold your precious photos, documents, and even work files hostage, making them inaccessible.
For businesses, it can be even trickier, causing financial strain, a tarnished reputation, and even a temporary shutdown. The good news? Prevention is possible, and we'll show you how to keep your data safe and avoid this stressful situation!



Think of Updates like Security Guards for Your Computer!

- Regularly updating your operating system, applications, and antivirus software with the latest patches is like giving them new tools and knowledge to fight off threats like ransomware. It's a quick and easy way to keep your data safe and sound.
- Many antivirus programs use a yellow shield icon to show they're on guard. You can see an example of this shield icon below. If you can't spot it, don't worry! Just give our friendly IT team a call, and they'll be happy to help you check.

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US



lib/scientist/result.rb 1:1

Think Before You Click!

- Phishing emails are like imposters trying to trick you into clicking bad links. Be a web detective! If an email looks fishy, don't click on any links or attachments. Instead, double-check the sender's address and be cautious of anything unexpected or just delete the email. If you're unsure, ask our IT team for help.
- These emails can tend to have attachments that appear similar in nature, like displayed in the image below.





Backup, Backup, Backup!

- Backing up your data to an external drive or cloud storage (disconnected when not in use) is like having a hidden treasure chest. That way, even if ransomware tries to lock up your files, you'll have a safe backup to restore them.
- If your files are backed up to our OneDrive cloud storage solution, then you should see the indicated icon as show in the accompanying image below.



