# RANSOMWARE: The Route, The Risks, The Relief.

How it happens, how much it hurts and how you can prevent it.



### What is Ransomware?

Ransomware is malicious software that blocks access to or data from a computer system until a certain amount of money is paid.

### **How Ransomware Gets to You**



### Step 1

Cybercriminals use phishing emails or the dark web to obtain login credentials and break into your network.

### Step 2

Once inside, they access your business information.





#### Step 3

The data is then encrypted, preventing you from accessing it.

### Step 4

The attacker sends you a message, demanding money in exchange for your data.



### **How Much Damage Does It Do?**

**55**%

Small to medium-sized businesses are the prime target of ransomware attacks. 55% of SMBs (less than 500 employees) have been impacted.<sup>1</sup>



A majority of ransomware victims — 92% — including those who pay up, don't get all their data back.<sup>2</sup>



Ransomware will cost its victims more than \$265 billion in 2031 — nearly 10 times more than in 2021 — with an attack occurring every two seconds.<sup>3</sup>

## Should I Pay the Ransom?

The FBI advises to **NEVER** pay in response to a ransomware attack. Worse yet, simply paying the ransom is not the only cost your business will pay. There is also the cost of recovery, both in the short- and long-term, which is a staggering \$1.85 million.

### **How to Reduce Your Risk**

### 1. Cybersecurity training

95% of malware is caused by human error. Teach your staff how to spot scams.

### 2. Multifactor authentication

Make it so anyone wishing to access your network must enter at least three forms of identification.

### 4. Update your security

Because cyberattacks are rapidly evolving, you need security and automation tools that deliver dynamic defense at high speeds and with more precision than ever before.

### 3. Increase remote security

A solid VPN isn't enough. You need 24/7 Al security monitoring to handle an onslaught of cyberattacks.

### 5. Back up your data

A ransomware attack loses its bite if you've backed up the data being held hostage.

If you're unsure whether your cybersecurity can withstand or stave off a ransomware attack, our team can help. Our comprehensive **Security Assessment** will gauge just how vulnerable you are to a breach and what measures can be taken to protect your data.