

R

Ransomware: What it is, how attacks happen, and how to respond

What it is Ransomware is malware used to deny access to data or systems and demand payment for restoration. Modern ransomware operations often steal information before encryption and threaten to publish it, creating both operational...

PUBLISHER

Gridinsoft Support

UPDATED

Jul 17, 2026

READ TIME

2 min

What it is

Ransomware is malware used to deny access to data or systems and demand payment for restoration. Modern ransomware operations often steal information before encryption and threaten to publish it, creating both operational disruption and a data-breach risk. Some attacks lock one computer; others are human-operated intrusions across an organization.

How it works

Entry may begin with phishing, stolen credentials, exposed remote access, a vulnerable public service, or a compromised supplier. Attackers can spend days exploring, escalating privileges, collecting data, and weakening backups before deploying ransomware. Automated consumer

infections also exist, but the same payload name can appear in very different intrusion chains.

Key points

- Unusual logins, security-tool tampering, mass archive creation, and backup access can warn of an attack before encryption.
- Paying does not guarantee a working decryptor, deletion of stolen data, or protection from another demand.
- Recovery requires both clean data and removal of the access path that allowed the incident.

What to do

- Isolate affected systems and protect clean backups and identity infrastructure.
- Preserve ransom notes, logs, memory, and sample files for identification and investigation.
- Contact incident-response, legal, insurance, and authorities according to the organization's plan.
- Rebuild from trusted media, restore tested backups, and rotate exposed credentials before reconnecting.

Further reading

For a longer technical profile, see [the Gridinsoft ransomware resource center](#).

NEED MORE HELP?

We are here when the guide is not enough.

Visit the Gridinsoft Support Center for current product guidance or submit a support request with the details of your case.

[Open this guide online at support.gridinsoft.com](https://support.gridinsoft.com)