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To: DOPM All Users <DOPMAllUsers@uabmc.edu>

Subject: Computer Tip of the Week -- Ransomware – "But surely this won't affect me"

Ransomware –

"But surely this won't affect me"

Brought to you by

Lisa Schwaiger

- DOPM HelpDesk Triage and
Computer Tech in MT-403



QUESTION:

I've heard of Ransomware, and it sounds just awful, having to pay "bad guys" to unlock the data on your computer system.

But I'm here in little ole Alabama, working on medical research, helping people be healthy. Surely, no one would go after someone like me Right ??

And besides, what's the worst that could happen? I've got other things to worry about.

ANSWER:

Ransomware is a little like breathing. No one ever thinks about it until they can't. Then it's the most important thing ever.

Ransomware effectively shut down 3 hospitals in Alabama this week.

"Bad guys" do target individuals, business, government, and universities. They don't care who you are, or what good work you do.

Best way to defend against Ransomware:

- Be suspicious of email attachments – especially those that are not expected
- Be suspicious of links in emails – don't click unless you are absolutely sure
- Be very suspicious of emails from a person or business you aren't familiar with
- Be careful "searching" for websites instead of directly typing in the website address
- Remember an email from a friend/acquaintance could be an impersonation

So, please always be aware and appropriately suspicious before you download attachments or click on links in emails. This is especially true regarding emails you are not expecting, even if they are from someone you know. (The bad guys are often able to impersonate other people.)

If interested, read more about it here:

- <https://www.al.com/news/2019/10/dch-health-system-closed-to-all-but-most-critical-new-patients-due-to-ransomware-attack.html>

Was this helpful? Do you have suggestions for a future Tip of the Week? Do you have any other comments?
Let us know at dopmHelp@uabmc.edu

To see an archive of past Tips of the Week: <http://www.uab.edu/medicine/dopm/help/totw>