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The Real Costs of Web Malware Protection

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By

Kowsik Guruswamy, Chief Technology Officer, Menlo Security in reference to The Hidden Cost of Web Security Business Whitepaper. A ransomware attack is terrible for consumers, employees and businesses – and you can put a price tag on recovery.

According to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation's report in April 2016, "Cyber-criminals collected \$209 million in the first three months of 2016 by extorting businesses and institutions to unlock computer servers," reported CNN. A typical ransomware might demand a payment of \$10,000 or more; Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center forked over \$17,000 in February.

Websites are one of the most common malware vectors (along with malicious emails) that can provide the entry point to many other types of hack attacks. Block access to the web, and you've made a dent in

overall cybersecurity risks.

There are more than 550 million malware variants, reports AV-TEST, with more than 390,000 new malicious programs being identified every day.

There are multiple ways malware gets into an end-user's computer – and from there, the malware might have unfettered access to everything on that computer and other resources on the business network.

In many cases the end user did absolutely nothing wrong... but became infected anyway. Blocking access to these uncategorized sites reduces the chances of malware infection, but introduces a number of problems and hidden costs, such as more help-desk tickets.

The costs of recovering from a ransomware or other cyberattack are fairly well understood... but how much should an organization spend to prevent one in the first place? This article will explore the smarter options for investing in cyber-protection – ways to spend smarter, getting a better security posture while also reducing expenditures.

(NetEvents)