# Ransomware

## Timeline of ransomware

**1989**

Ransomware was born. First known as the AIDS Trojan after the World Health Organisation's International AIDS Conference was attacked through the distribution of 20,000 infected floppy disks.

**2006**

### Archiveus Trojan

Worked by encrypting everything it found in the "My Documents" section. Users would then be guided to make purchases on certain websites to regain freedom.

**2008**

### The introduction of Bitcoin

The introduction of the first cryptocurrency poured fuel onto an already strong fire! Cyber criminals now had the ability to launch an attack and demand a ransom of digital currency.

**2011**

### A new variant

In 2011, a new variant was introduced that meant attackers no longer needed to encrypt hijacked files. Instead, a fake Windows product screen forced users to call a number in search of an activation code at a premium rate.

**2012**

### Reveton

A trojan that locked users out of their computers. Users were faced with a screen that stated that they were engaged in illegal activities and had to pay a fine. A clip of webcam footage was even included in some cases.

**2013**

### Cryptolocker

An attack that would give those infected a strict 72 hours to pay $400 in Bitcoin or else their encrypted files would be erased. Cryptolocker hit half a million computers and raked in the region of $27 million for the attackers.

**2015**

### SimpleLocker

The first Android-based attack. SimpleLocker encrypted files making them inaccessible without the scammers' help. It was the first known ransomware that delivered its malicious payload via a Trojan downloader.

**2016**

### LOcky

This attack gained notoriety by successfully extorting data from a major US healthcare company. Victims received a word document disguised as an invoice and were prompted to enable macros in order to render it properly. When they did, the macro downloaded malware, encrypting the data, and demanding a ransom. in Bitcoin. The healthcare company paid $17k to recover patient data.

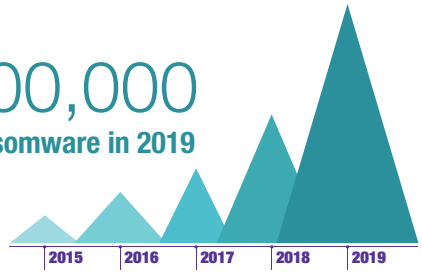
**2017**

### WannaCry

Hitting over 200,000 networks in 150 countries, this prevalent attack is perhaps most notorious for using worm-like methods to spread from an infected machine to others on the same network.

## Ransomware in numbers

**$11,500,000,000**
the total global cost of ransomware in 2019




**14 seconds**
how often a new business will fall victim to ransomware in 2019

**$133,000**
is the average cost to a business hit by ransomware

**1,500,000**
new phishing sites are created every month

Source
https://www.cbronline.com/news/the-history-of-ransomware
https://techtalk.gfi.com/the-10-worst-ransomware-attacks-that-ever-happened/
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