RANSOMWARE TASK FORCE

Report Briefing for State/Local Leaders

Combating Ransomware: A Comprehensive Framework for Action

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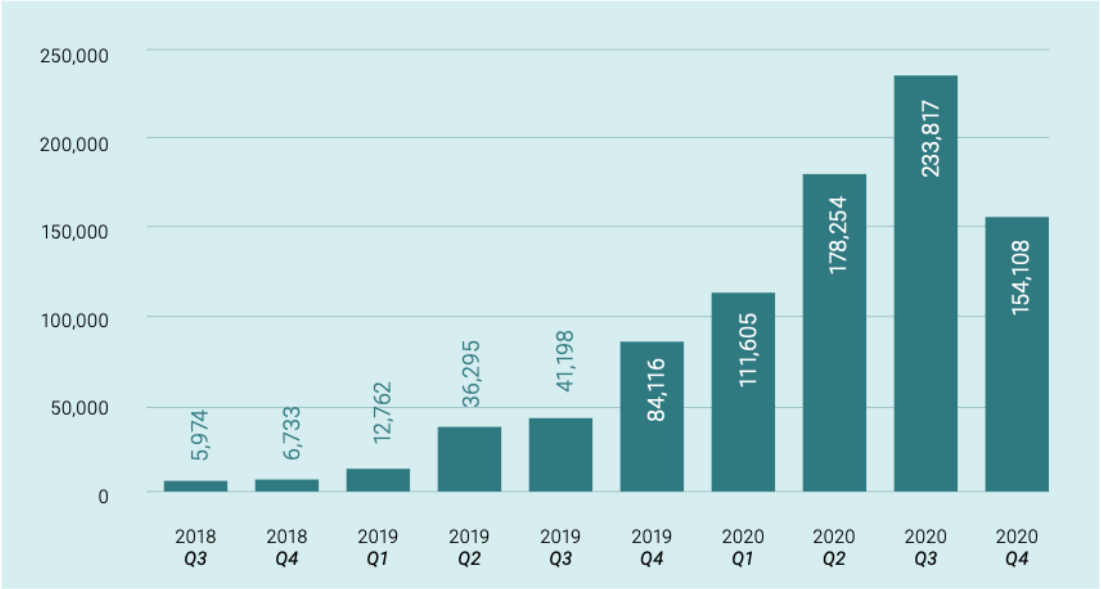
The Rise of Ransomware

FIGURE 1 **Average ransom in USD**



From The Coveware Quarterly Ransomware Report

Ransomware Targets:

- ➔ Hospitals
- ➔ Schools
- ➔ Local police
- ➔ Local governments
- ➔ Small businesses
- ➔ Large corporations

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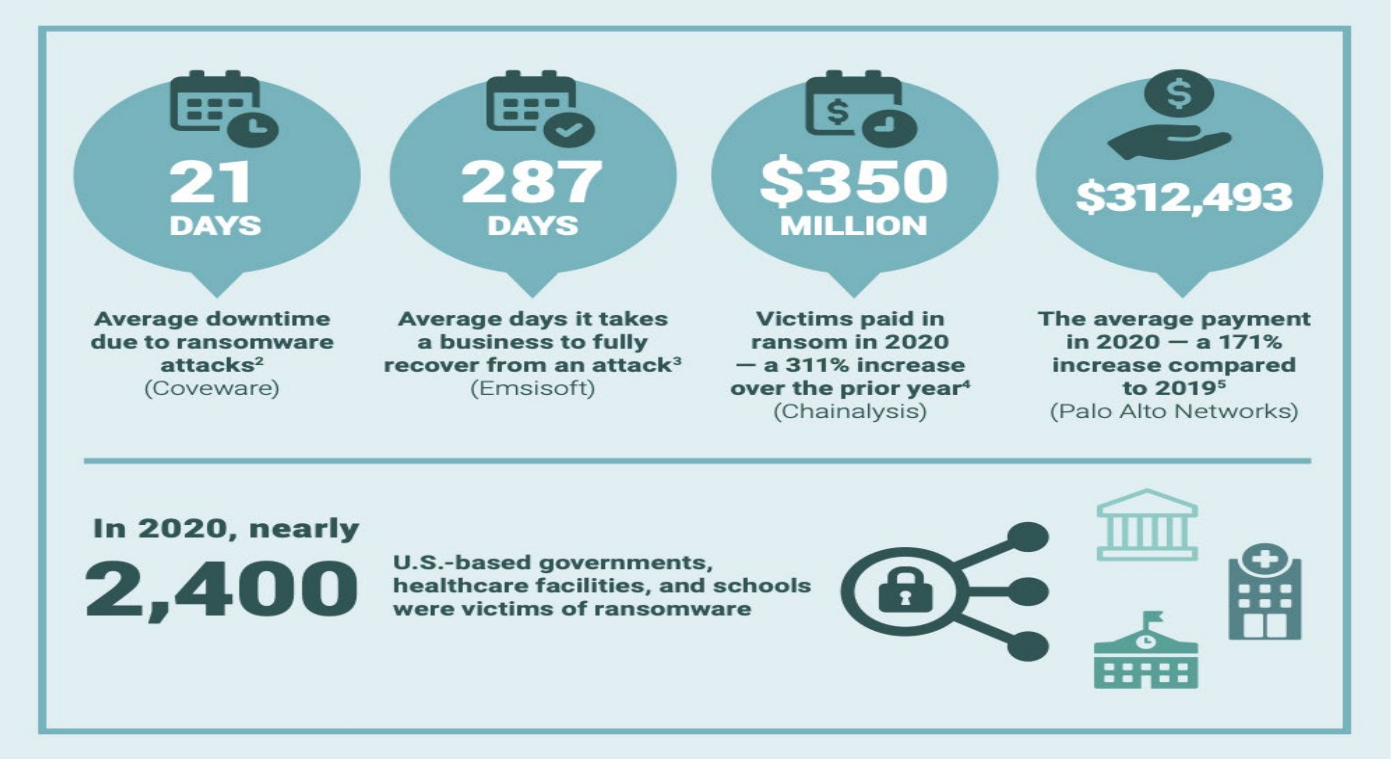
THE IMPACT OF RANSOMWARE



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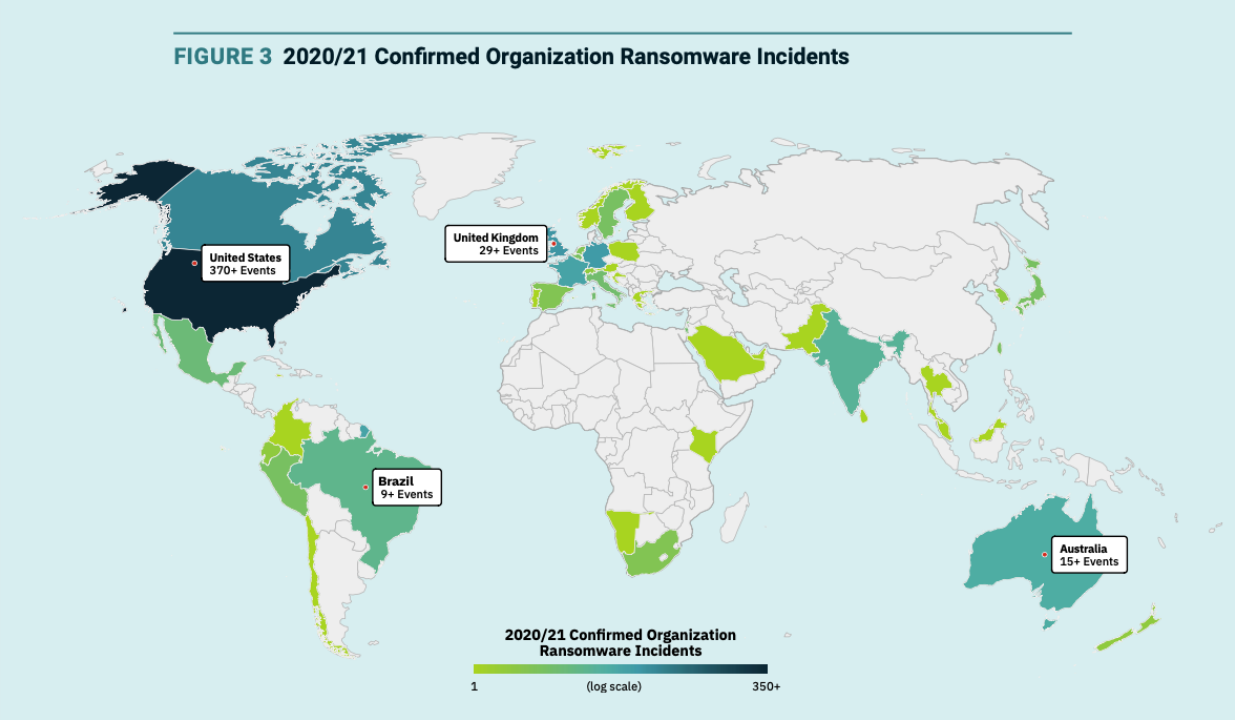
A Global problem



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The Ransomware Task Force

- 60+ experts from industry, government, law enforcement, civil society, and international organizations worked hand-in-hand
- Met Jan —April to centralize expertise from different sectors, create comprehensive solutions

Notable Sectors Included:

- ➔ Incident Responders, Threat Intelligence
- ➔ Cyber Insurance Providers, Brokers
- ➔ Healthcare Entities
- ➔ Cryptocurrency Analysis Firms / Exchanges
- ➔ International Law Enforcement
- ➔ Financial Regulators
- ➔ Cybersecurity Providers
- ➔ Corporations including Microsoft, Amazon
- ➔ CTA, GCA, other civil society organizations

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RTF Framework

1. *Deter Ransomware Attacks*

2. *Disrupt the ransomware business model*

3. *Help organizations prepare*

4. *Respond to ransomware attacks more effectively*

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Priority recommendations

1. The United States should lead by example and **execute a sustained, aggressive, whole of government, intelligence-driven anti-ransomware campaign**, coordinated by the White House. This must include the establishment of 1) an Interagency Working Group led by the National Security Council in coordination with the nascent National Cyber Director; 2) an internal U.S. Government Joint Ransomware Task Force; and 3) a collaborative, private industry-led informal Ransomware Threat Focus Hub.

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Priority recommendations

2. Coordinated, international diplomatic and law enforcement efforts must **proactively prioritize ransomware through a comprehensive, resourced strategy** , including using a carrot-and-stick approach to direct nation-states away from providing safe havens to ransomware criminals.

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Priority recommendations

3. Governments should establish Cyber Response and Recovery Funds to **support ransomware response** and other cybersecurity activities; **mandate that organizations report ransom payments** ; and require organizations to consider alternatives before making payments.

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Priority recommendations

4. An internationally coordinated effort should **develop a clear, accessible, and broadly adopted framework** to help organizations prepare for, and respond to, ransomware attacks. In some under-resourced and more critical sectors, incentives (such as fine relief and funding) or regulation may be required to **drive adoption**.

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Priority recommendations

5. The cryptocurrency sector that enables ransomware crime should be more closely regulated. Governments should require cryptocurrency exchanges, crypto kiosks, and over-the-counter (OTC) trading “desks” to comply with existing laws, including Know Your Customer (KYC), Anti-Money Laundering (AML), and Combatting Financing of Terrorism (CFT) laws.

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The Ransomware Task Force: NEXT STEP

- Will not continue in its current form, although the group will likely stay connected for a time
- Different Task Force members will work together in smaller groups to implement the recommendations

Roll out Activities To Date And Planned:

- ➔ On-going media engagement
- ➔ Launch event on April 29th
- ➔ US Congressional Hearing May 5th
- ➔ CTA Webinar on May 6th
- ➔ GCA Twitter Chat on May 12th
- ➔ Brief to UK Government June 21st
- ➔ White House briefing June 24th
- ➔ Brief to Canadian Government July 6th
- ➔ Brief to NIST July 14th
- ➔ Brief to Australian Government July 26th
- ➔ Brief to Netherlands Government July TBD

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QUESTIONS

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Legislative opportunities

Action 2.1.1. Develop new levers for voluntary sharing of cryptocurrency payment indicators
Action 2.1.2. Require cryptocurrency exchanges, crypto kiosks, and over -the-counter (OTC) trading “desks” to comply with existing laws
Action 2.2.3: Clarify lawful defensive measures that private -sector actors can take when countering ransomware
Action 3.3.1: Update cyber-hygiene regulations and standards
Action 3.3.2: Require local governments to adopt limited baseline security measures
Action 3.3.3: Require managed service providers to adopt and provide baseline security measures
Action 3.4.2: Expand Homeland Security Preparedness grants to encompass cybersecurity threats
Action 3.4.3: Offer local government/SLTTs/critical NGOs conditional access to grant funding for compliance with the Ransomware Framework (2.1.1)
Action 3.4.4: Alleviate fines for critical infrastructure entities that align with the Ransomware Framework
Action 3.4.5: Investigate tax breaks as an incentive for organizations to adopt secure IT services
Action 4.1.1: Create ransomware emergency response authorities
Action 4.1.2: Create a Ransomware Response Fund to support victims in refusing to make ransomware payments (incentivize non -payment of ransoms)
Action 4.1.3: Increase government resources available to help the private sector respond to ransomware attacks
Action 4.2.4: Require organizations and incident response entities to share ransomware payment information with a national government prior to payment
Action 4.3.2: Require organizations to review alternatives before making payments
~~Action 4.3.3: Require organizations to conduct a cost -benefit assessment prior to making a ransom payment~~

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