



Is your computer and network safe from hackers?

Our core purpose is
'HELPING CLIENTS ACHIEVE FINANCIAL SECURITY'

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KEY POINTS

- Ransomware scenario
- How does ransomware get onto your computer
- Protecting yourself from ransomware
- Are you financially secure



IMAGINE

Picture this: You've spent the last few days working on a on that next big business proposal. Hours of research, facts and figures have gone into this. You finally finish. Next day you go to print out the proposal but when you go to open it up a strange message pops up.

"Unfortunately, the files on this computer have been encrypted. You have 96 hours to submit payment to receive the encryption key, otherwise your files will be permanently destroyed."

You've been hit with ransomware.

You have no back up in fact, you haven't backed up any of your files in months. What do you do?

Unfortunately, when it comes to ransomware, once your files are encrypted, there's not much you can do besides cut your losses or pay up. And even if you do pay up, there's a chance you won't get your files back, so you're out the files and your cash.

That's why it's so important to prevent ransomware attacks from happening in the first place.

Ransomware has become one of the most widespread and damaging threats that internet users face. Since the infamous CryptoLocker first appeared in 2013, we've seen a new era of file-encrypting ransomware variants delivered through

spam messages and Exploit Kits, extorting money from home users and businesses alike. The current wave of ransomware families have become much more sophisticated in how they are delivered and how and what they infect.

HOW DOES RANSOMWARE GET ONTO YOUR COMPUTER?

One way ransomware can arrive on your computer is through opening attachments in spam emails. These malicious emails may have what looks like regular documents attached, but once you open them, your computer is at risk of becoming infected with malware. Another way ransomware can infect computers is through certain websites. These may be malicious websites, set up by criminals for the sole purpose of infecting anyone who visits the site, or they may be legitimate websites that have been compromised by the criminals and used to spread malware.

Protect yourself from ransomware

1. USE REPUTABLE ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE AND A FIREWALL

Maintaining a strong firewall and keeping your security software up to date are critical. It's important to use antivirus software from a reputable company because of all the fake software out there.

2. BACK UP OFTEN

If you back up files to either an external hard drive or to an online backup service, you diminish the threat.

3. ENABLE YOUR POPUP BLOCKER IN YOUR BROWSER

Popups are a prime tactic used by the bad guys, so simply avoid even accidentally clicking on an infected popup. If a popup appears, click on the X in the right-hand corner. The buttons within a popup might have been reprogrammed by the criminals, so do not click on them.

4. EXERCISE CAUTION

Don't click on links inside emails, and avoid suspicious websites.

5. DISCONNECT FROM THE INTERNET

If you receive a ransomware note, disconnect from the Internet so your personal data isn't transmitted back to the criminals.

Here at Mulcahy Information Technology we can help you make sure your system is protected. We can supply and install backup solutions, anti-virus/malware solutions as well as give sound advice.

We offer a free no obligation meeting to review your situation. Call us today on 03 5330 7200 and take advantage of this valuable offer.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: This document does not constitute advice. Clients should not act solely on the basis of the material contained in this document. Items herein are general comments only and do not constitute or convey advice per se. Also changes in legislation may occur quickly and we therefore recommend that our formal advice be sought before acting in any of these areas. This document is issued as a helpful guide to clients and for their private information.

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Are You Financially Secure?



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What does being financially secure mean?

IT MEANS ASSESSING YOUR PERSONAL AND BUSINESS GOALS AND DEVELOPING A PLAN TO ACHIEVE THESE.

We have identified 10 key areas to help you become financially secure:

1. Goals & objectives
2. Estate plan
3. Risk plan
4. Asset protection plan
5. Taxation plan
6. Debt plan
7. Retirement and succession plan
8. Business plan
9. Superannuation plan
10. Investment plan

Setting goals and objectives and having strategies to achieve these is an essential element of becoming financially secure. Once you know what you are aiming to achieve and how you are going to get there, we then need to make sure you have a strong foundation in place to protect you, your family and other investments. A strong foundation needs an estate plan, risk, plan, asset protection plan, taxation plan and debt plan.

With the foundations in place we can then work on the strategies to achieve your goals and objectives. It may seem out of order that we have the retirement and succession plan at number 7 rather than 10. It is important that this is considered early and a plan is put in place. This assists to plan for this financially as well as keeping the communication lines open on the topic.

10 Steps to becoming Financially Secure

1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Picture yourself in 10 years time... Where do you want to be? How are you going to get there? Being clear on your goals & objectives ensures you can develop a strategy to achieve them.

2. ESTATE PLAN

“What will happen when I’m gone?” Only assets owned in your name are covered by your will. Your Estate Plan protects your family from the potential threats that your Will does not.

3. RISK PLAN

Your Risk Plan addresses whether you need to save or insure to protect your family’s financial security in the event of an injury, accident or death.

4. ASSET PROTECTION PLAN

An Asset Protection Plan makes sure your assets are owned in the right names or entities so you limit the risk of them being exposed to creditors.

5. TAXATION PLAN

A Taxation Plan structures your affairs so that you legally pay the least amount of tax and retain more of your income.

6. DEBT PLAN

A Debt Plan ensures your assets aren’t over exposed to debt and structures your debt to maximise tax deductibility of the interest.



7. RETIREMENT PLAN

Retirement is setting the date when you can choose to stop work. Your Retirement Plan details the income and assets you need (in addition to superannuation) to retire and outlines the steps to get there.

8. BUSINESS PLAN

Your Business Plan may be the main source of your wealth. The 5 Drivers to Business Success are the key to developing a business which will help you achieve your goals.

9. SUPERANNUATION PLAN

Many people miss out on the enormous tax benefits of superannuation. A Superannuation Plan will ensure you have a strategy to produce greater wealth at retirement.

10. INVESTMENT PLAN

An Investment Plan will increase your asset base, while focusing on preserving your capital and managing your risks, to meet your personal and financial goals.

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