5 TYPES OF CYBER-THREATS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Cyber-threats today affect everyone with a computer or smart device. Staying aware of these dangers drastically reduces the chances of falling victim to them. Here are 5 main cyber-threats you should be aware of in 2019:



Phishing

Phishing is an online deception strategy that uses fake emails or websites impersonating a legitimate person or organization in order to lure an unsuspecting user into revealing passwords, bank account information, personal data, or even clicking on links that contain malicious software. Phishing is the most common type of cyberattack. Phishing emails and websites are getting smarter, though, since cybercriminals now use AI tools to compile very convincing and personalized messages that may convince even the greatest skeptics.

Malware

Malware is a generic term for any and all malicious software. It is any piece of software that aims to damage data, inhibit systems, steal personal information, and generally do harm to computer systems and their users. Malware includes malicious software such as viruses, worms, botnets, ransomware, etc. The idea is to avoid clicking on dodgy links, opening suspicious files or giving access to your systems to unknown users or devices. A solid and holistic cybersecurity solution doesn't hurt either.

Cryptojacking

A cryptojacking script usually hides in websites where an unsuspecting user's computer processing resources are "hijacked" to conduct cryptocurrency mining for the site's webmaster. Because crypto mining is expensive due to the immense processing involved, and therefore high electricity bills, cryptojackers use this tactic to "borrow" resources from others, slowing down their computers and inflating their electricity bills.

Ransomware

Ransomware is a type of malware that aggressively encrypts a victim's data and renders it unusable until a ransom is paid to the cybercriminals responsible. Ransomware has caused irreparable damage in reputation, data and finances for many organizations, regardless of size and industry. This is why backing up your data is so crucial.

Spyware

Spyware is a type of software that monitors the activity on a device. It is legal, as long as users are notified, and the device is owned by the entity that manages the spyware. In other cases, spyware can be malware when it spies on activity on a device with unaware users. In this case, users may unwillingly reveal private information to threat actors, exposing them to identity theft, extortion or monetary theft.

HEADQUARTERS

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