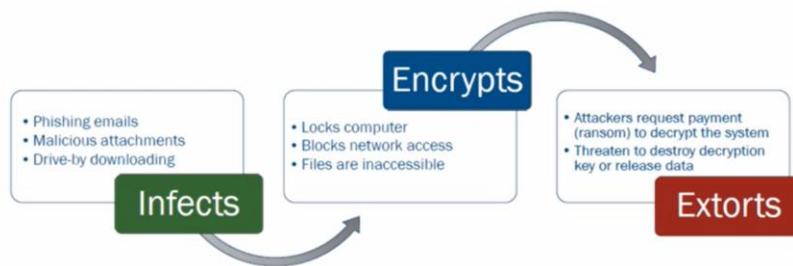# CTPAT ALERT
Cybersecurity – Stop Ransomware - U.S. Government Website
Last Updated: July 19, 2021

To enhance communication with its Members, the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) program routinely highlights security matters for the purpose of raising awareness and renewing Partners' vigilance in supply chain security. Through this CTPAT Alert, the program would like to communicate to its membership that the U.S. Government launched a new website on July 15, 2021, to help public and private organizations defend against the rise in ransomware cases.

Ransomware is an ever-evolving form of malware designed to encrypt files on a device, rendering any files and systems that rely on them unusable. Malicious actors then demand ransom in exchange for decryption. This graphic depicts how it works:

StopRansomware.gov is a whole-of-government approach that gives one central location for ransomware resources and alerts. It is an interagency resource that provides our partners and stakeholders with ransomware protection, detection, and response guidance that they can use on a single website. This includes ransomware alerts, reports, and resources from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and other federal partners.

Ransomware is often spread through phishing emails that contain malicious attachments or through drive-by downloading - when a user unknowingly visits an infected website and malware is downloaded and installed without the user's knowledge. At the left top corner of the StopRansomware.gov website, there is a link that informs the user as to the validity and security of this website.

We encourage organizations to use this new website to understand the threat of ransomware, mitigate risk, and in the event of a cyber-attack, know what steps to take, including how to notify U.S. Government agencies. Please continue to report any cyber-attacks to your CTPAT Supply Chain Security Specialist (SCSS).

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