Ransomware and Protecting Your Organization

The WannaCry (short for WannaCrypt) ransomware* attack experienced worldwide in mid-May 2017 affected some 300,000 computers running Microsoft® Windows operation systems in more than 150 countries. It affected healthcare institutions, communications providers, gas stations and banks.

The attack began on Friday, May 12, 2017, encrypting data and demanding ransom payments in untraceable Bitcoin cryptocurrency. Microsoft had learned of the problem earlier and had released a "critical" security patch on March 14, 2017 for supported versions of Microsoft, but many users had not yet applied it.

Before the malware did too much damage in the United States, a lone researcher on vacation identified as "Malware Tech" accidentally found a "kill switch" and bought the internet domain that was coded into the malware but was not active. This triggered the kill switch, effectively shutting down WannaCrypt.

The cryptoworm particularly targeted older, unsupported versions of Microsoft Windows, such as Windows XP and Windows Server 2003; most

victims were running Windows 7. When Microsoft learned of the attack, they quickly provided emergency patches for unsupported older versions.

The spread of WannaCry was contained within four days, with new infections happening much slower.

Meanwhile, as of May 25, 2017, WannaCrypt victims had deposited 302 payments for a total worth of $126,742.48, or 49.60319 BTC. At least two multi-state hospital systems in the U.S. were attacked.

BTC, or Bitcoin currency, is an internet currency that is mathematically limited to 21 million bitcoins. That number can never be changed, meaning that Bitcoins cannot be counterfeited or inflated at will, unlike government-issued currency. Bitcoins, which is also a digital payment system, can be used to make payments to any entity that accepts the currency, often at significant savings.

How Did WannaCry Spread?

Malware is delivered as a Trojan virus through a loaded hyperlink that could be accidentally opened through an email, advertisement, or a Dropbox link. After it is activated, the software spreads through the computer, locking files with the same encryption used for instant messaging.

How Should You Respond to a Ransomware Attack and Protect Your Practice?

If you find that your organization has become the victim of a ransomware attack, follow the below steps to respond and protect your organization.

1. Do not pay the ransom! There is no guarantee that the files will be returned. WannaCry did not identify who paid, so files were not returned.

2. Work with your IT team to restore data if possible.

3. Contact the FBI Field Office Cyber Task Force (https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/field-offices) or the U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force (www.secretservice.gov/investigation/#field) to report the event and request assistance.

4. Report the incident to US-CERT (www.us-cert.gov/ncas) and the FBI's Internet Crime

---

Our **Medical Auditing Bootcamp** will train you to become a medial auditor. Learn the principles of auditing, compliance regulations, and how to perform the daily duties of an auditor.

Our **2-day ONSITE** Medical Auditing Bootcamps are scheduled as follows:

August 17 & 18: Asheville, NC
October 12 & 13: Columbia, SC
and more!

We also offer this bootcamp as a **5 week LIVE ONLINE Saturday course**. Each class is 3 hours and 15 minutes in length. Our next online course begins September 23, 2017!

Click Here to Learn More & View Our Medical Auditing BootCamp Schedule

---

Our **2- Day E&M Auditing Bootcamp** is an accelerated auditing training specific to E&M auditing. Learn about audit policies, get clarity on documentation guidelines, medical decision making, medical necessity and more. Plus, during this training program you will have the opportunity **earn our NEW CREDENTIAL - Certified Evaluation and Management Auditor (CEMA)!**

Our 2-Day E&M BootCamps are scheduled as follows:

Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov).

5. If the attack may have affected medical devices, contact the FDA's emergency line at 866-300-4374. Reports for multiple systems should be reported together.

6. Avoid or reduce HIPAA fines for loss of PHI by documenting a strong compliance plan. Report healthcare-specific attacks to HHS' Healthcare Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center at HCCIS_RM@hhs.gov.

Click Here to Download a Helpful Cyber Attack Quick-Response Checklist that Outlines What You Should Do if You are the Victim of a Cyber Attack

Click Here to Download a Cyber-Attack Quick Response Poster

*Ransomware is a malicious software program that is being used more and more frequently by hackers to extort money from businesses, including healthcare entities. It originated in Russia but is now international and has grown exponentially over the past few years, becoming one of the most prevalent types of cybercrime. It is very lucrative!

Ransomware encrypts digital files, holding them hostage while demanding payment to release them. Typically victims receive an email addressed to them and open it, clicking on an attachment that looks legitimate, such as an invoice or an electronic fax, but actually holds the ransomware code. It could be a link to a legitimate-looking URL.

Once the victim opens the attachment, the malware installs itself on the computer. When the victim clicks on that URL, they are taken immediately to a website that infects their computer. The malware then encrypts files and folders, attached drives, backup drives, and possibly other computers in the same network. Victims are not aware of the attack until they can no longer access data or they see a message demanding the ransom.

Unless or until the victim pays the ransom, the files are completely unavailable. Some files may never be retrieved, may be corrupted, or may be completely eliminated.

July 26 & 27: Nashville, TN
August 8 & 9: Charleston, SC
September 12 & 13: Savannah, GA
And more!

Click Here to Learn More & View Our E&M Auditing BootCamp schedule

Weekly Tip Sponsor

MediRevv provides Revenue Cycle Management services and solutions for healthcare organizations.

Click the image above to learn more about MediRevv

Membership Benefit Spotlight

Here, each week we will highlight one of the many benefits of a NAMAS membership

NAMAS Online Forum

Curious how other auditors feel about certain auditing topics? Want to pose your most puzzling questions to your peers for their response? The NAMAS forum does just that! It's a discussion board where members can pose questions (and answers!) to various auditing topics, share helpful tools and links, and engage in discussions!

NAMAS Calendar of Events

Click the image above to view our monthly calendar

**Join NAMAS for the 9th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference
December 2017 in Orlando, FL!**

Conference Information
Pre-Conference: Tuesday, December 5
Conference: Wednesday, December 6 - Friday, December 8
Venue: Loews Sapphire Falls Resort
Orlando, FL

Click Here to View the Conference Agenda

Learn from the best in the industry, network with your peers and visit with our hand picked group of industry relevant exhibitors all in the gorgeous Caribbean inspired backdrop of the Loews Sapphire Falls Resort

Conference Pricing - Available Through September 30, 2017 Only
NAMAS Member
Conference Only: $1145
Pre-Conference & Conference: $1395

Non Member
Conference Only: $1245
Pre-Conference & Conference: $1595

NAMAS is proud to offer the following webinars in July

When Good Providers Make Bad Decisions
Speaker: Doug Graham
July 18, 2017
2pm EST
This webinar is FREE For NAMAS Platinum, Gold and Silver/Basic members who have selected the compliance webinar series. This webinar is also available for purchase for $49.99
Click here to purchase

Hands On: Auditing Surgical Services
Speaker: Linda Foster
July 25, 2017
2pm EST
This webinar is FREE For NAMAS Platinum members. This webinar is also available for purchase for $49.99
Click here to purchase

Too Many Audits Stacking Up? Looking for Education for Your Team or Providers?

Plus, Don't Miss Your Opportunity to Be a Conference VIP!

This year, we are proud to offer a limited number of VIP package add-ons available to all attendees at the nominal rate of $129. Add on the VIP experience to your conference registration today!

As a Conference VIP, you'll receive:

- A VIP registration line for faster check-in

- A VIP branded name badge to wear during conference sessions

- Registration to our EXCLUSIVE VIP Brunch & Session occurring the morning of Wednesday, December 6 before general session begins. This exclusive training will be presented by Frank Cohen

- Admission to our VIP ONLY EVENT - occurring the evening of Thursday, December 7. Enjoy a relaxing evening of entertainment, dancing, food and networking in the Caribbean inspired Sapphire Falls Resort

- Bonus NAMAS Swag

- Additional $500 in NAMAS Bucks! Use NAMAS Bucks to bid on a variety of prizes available in our exhibit hall

And, as a special added bonus, all VIP attendees will receive a book of printed handouts for all NAMAS pre-conference & conference sessions. As a VIP, there's no need to print handouts before you arrive! Your book will be waiting for you upon your arrival!

There are only a limited number of VIP packages available to be issued on a first come, first served basis**.** Add on the VIP experience to your conference registration today!

Follow NAMAS on Social Media

Let our team help! DoctorsManagement & NAMAS employ Senior Management Auditors with no less than 10 years of experience. Our team can perform your audits or offer hands-on assistance to your team.

We're available to assist with:

- Valuation Audits
- Pre-Bill Audits
- Retrospective Audits
- Customized Training

To learn more, contact NAMAS via email at namas@namas.co

Sample what a NAMAS membership can offer you with our FREE 1-month LITE trial membership

Register for our 1-month free trial LITE membership and experience a sample of what a NAMAS membership has to offer - NO Credit Card Information Needed!

During your trial, you'll receive access to weekly webinars for a chance to earn up to 4CEUs, weekly auditing and compliance tips, and even an online sample of BCAdvantage magazine!

Click the image above to get your 1-month free trial membership today!

Complimentary
Tip of the Week

Our weekly auditing & compliance tip emails
are available to anyone who could benefit
from this information.
If you know someone who would like to
receive these emails, invite them to sign.

Click the image above to be added to our
email list!