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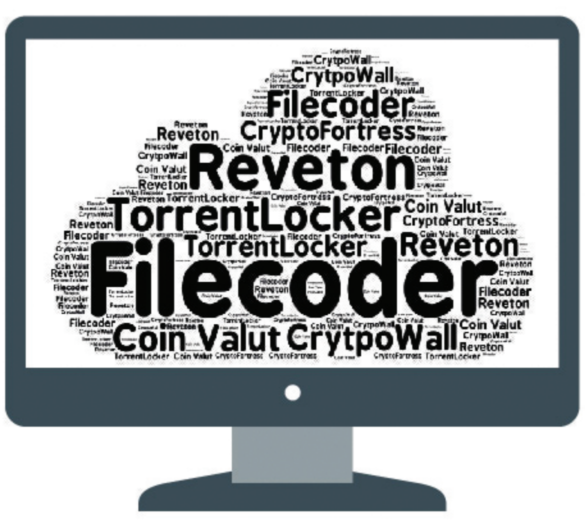
Ransomware:
What it is and how to protect yourself

Ransomware is a type of malicious software that can lock your device and take hostage files that might have some personal or professional value to you.

Malware is often spread via email or by drive-by downloads from compromised websites. After it's done its malicious job, the ransomware generates a pop-up message telling you to pay.



The most prolific variants of ransomware affect PCs

But there is also ransomware called Simplocker that can take your Android OS hostage

If you are tempted to pay the ransom, keep in mind that there is **NO GUARANTEE** your files will be returned to you or that the malware will be removed

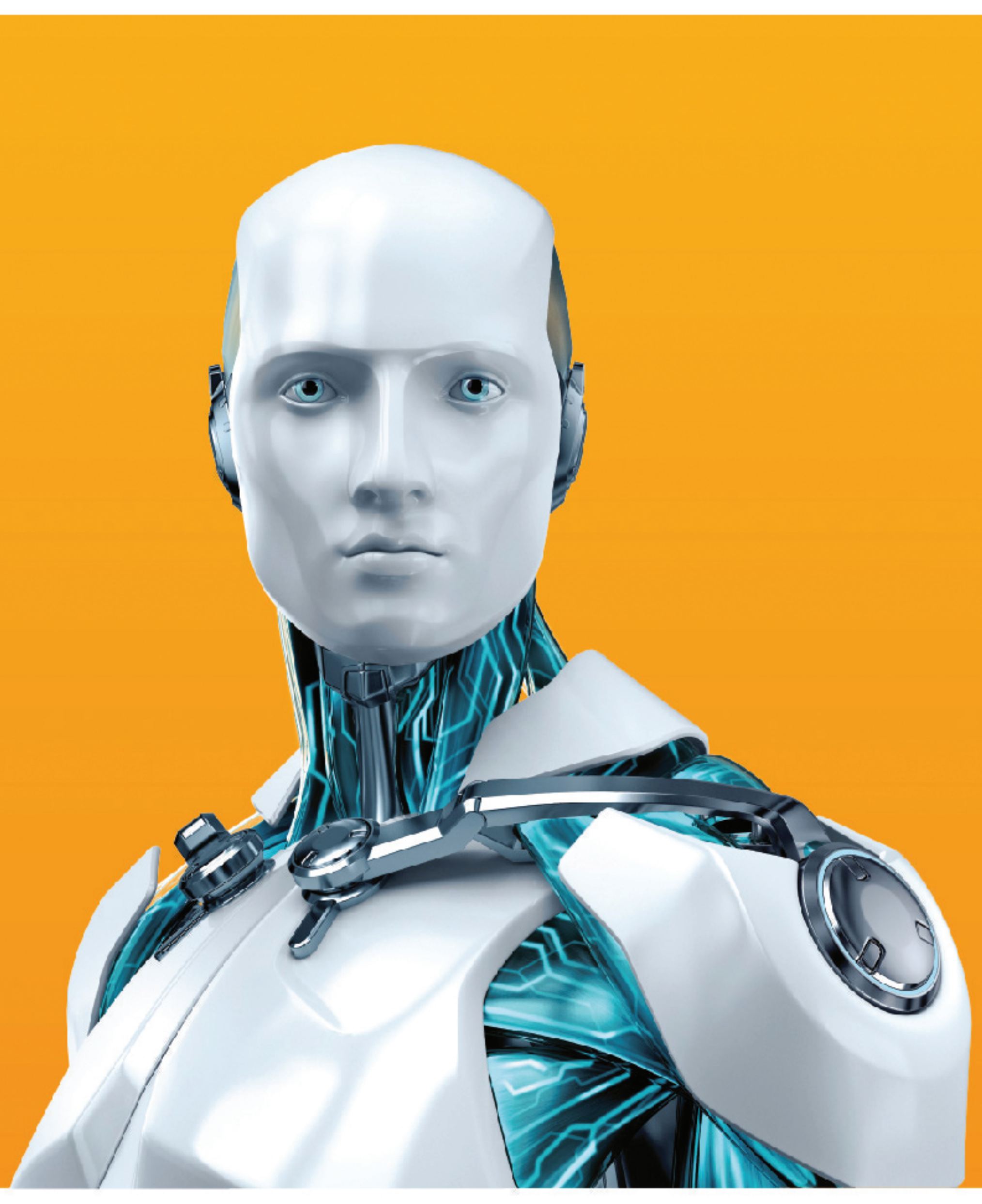
HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

BEFORE YOU GET INFECTED

1. ***Back up*** your data
2. ***Show*** file-extensions hidden by default in Windows
3. ***Filter*** executable (*.exe) files in your e-mail
4. Use a reputable ***security software suite***
5. ***Patch*** or ***update*** your software
6. ***Disable*** remote desktop protocol

IF YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS…

1. ***Disconnect*** from the Internet if you think you've been infected
2. Use ***System Restore***
3. Set the ***BIOS*** clock back
4. And—in particular—***don't pay***



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