Read the following articles:

* <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/ransomware-europe-russia-ukraine-petya-bitcoin-1.4179683>
* <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/oshawa-hospital-cyberattack-1.4114758>
* <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/05/13/ontario-health-ministry-on-high-alert-amid-global-cyberattack.html>

**Level 1: Ransomware Basics**

1. What is a ransomware attack?

* Ransomware attack is a type of [malicious software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malicious_software) attack

1. How does ransomware work and what does it affect?

* Ransomware threatens to publish the victim's data or perpetually block access to it unless a [ransom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ransom) is paid.

**Level 2: Canada & Other Countries**

1. What was affected in Canada in the articles above?

* A hospital briefly lost access to patient records
* Ransomware [attacks hit](https://www.thestar.com/business/2016/03/28/ransomware-the-hack-trend-taking-computer-data-hostage.html) two Ontario hospitals last year — Ottawa Hospital and Norfolk General Hospital in Simcoe — but affected only a handful of machines.

1. How badly was Canada affected?

* Canada was not affected that bad by the malware as they did not have that many devices affected and a lot of hospitals survived the attack due to updating their devices.
* Since, the attack was not targeting Canada and was hoping to affect as many devices as possible Canada got lucky and survived.

1. What other countries were affected?

* There were a total of 150 countries affected
* It included Canada, Ukraine, US, Germany etc

**Level 3: Canada & Other Countries**

1. Where did the attack come from?

* The attack supposedly came from Ukraine

1. Why was the attack started?

* The intentions are unknown but I am guessing it is because of money that the attackers will get.

1. How was the attacked stopped?

* The attack was stopped by a researcher who was using the pseudonym MalwareTech and ended up accidentally activating the kill switch when he tried to create a sinkhole in order to study the software.
* This kill switch was probably inserted to prevent investigators studying the software in a “sandbox”. These typically respond to all communication attempts by the malware with signals from registered domains. So when WannaCry received a response from the domain, it was tricked into thinking it was in a sandbox and shut down to protect itself.

1. How could you be affected by a ransomware attack?

* I could be affected by a ransomware attack as if my computer gets infected by this malware it can take over my data and then demand hundreds or thousands of dollars to unlock my computer or device— essentially holding the documents, photos and other items on the computer for ransom.

1. How can you protect yourself against a ransomware attack?

Ways to protect yourself against ransomware attack:

* Keep your computers' operating systems up-to-date, because the latest updates often patch up security holes.
* Avoid clicking on suspicious links.