

Bellevue University

MGM Casino Ransomware Attack

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Ransomware is a scary software used by unauthorized people to access other systems, obtain access to the files and information on the system, and then demand money to give access back to the original owner of the system. Ransomware is used to take advantage of people and get money from them. Information held hostage from people when attacked by ransomware includes documents, photos, and financial information. It is essential to stay vigilant and not click on suspicious links in your email or visit unknown sites. Learning how to avoid getting ransomware on your computer is an important skill.

The organization that got attacked is MGM. MGM Resorts International owns and operates casinos, hotel, and entertainment resorts.

They operate in Las Vegas Strip Resorts, Regional Operations, and MGM China. Their casino has gaming, hotel conventions, dining, entertainment, and retail.

Their casino has slots, table games, and online betting. They have popular resorts.

MGM stated that there was a cybersecurity issue where hotel room digital keys, slot machines, and even some of their websites were not operational. This led to guests waiting in lines that were hours long to check in and get physical keys. The attackers also obtained guests' personal information, including names, contact information, gender, date of birth, passport, and Social Security numbers.

This attack shows that even big resorts can get hacked. All it takes for a successful attack is attacking the right sector.

MGM chose to be manually operational during the attack. It may be best for them to stay manually operational to avoid future attacks. This attack caused many people's information to be compromised, machines in the casino to not work, and a loss of trust in people worldwide. Casinos getting attacked does not seem uncommon now, as Caesars Entertainment paid millions of dollars to hackers that hacked them around the same time. These events make me second guess where I will stay on my next vacation.

To avoid these attacks in the future, a better approach for all employees is to be on the same page about not falling for false information or believing everything they hear. What caused this attack seems to be an impersonation of a higher-up employee that the victim may know. There should be a dedicated team of professionals for communication within the organization to prevent this from happening again. It is an unfortunate event that will lead to many security changes. Operating manually instead of on the computer is slower but may be safer for the company.

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