**Cyber Incident Response**

Ransomware Playbook v2.3



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# Introduction

## Overview

In the event of a cyber incident, it is important that the organisation is able to respond, mobilise and execute an appropriate level of response to limit the impact on the brand, value, service delivery and the public, client and customer confidence. Although all cyber incidents are different in their nature and technologies used, it is possible to group common cyber incident types and methodologies together. This is in order to provide an appropriate and timely response depending on the cyber incident type. Incident specific playbooks provide incident managers and stakeholders with a consistent approach to follow when remediating a cyber incident.

References are made to both a Core IT CIRT and a CIRT within this document. This is in recognition of the different size and capabilities of organisations. Some may initially manage an incident with a small response team within IT services but where there is a confirmed compromise this may be escalated to an extended level CIRT comprising of members of the organisation outside the IT services who will deal with agreed categories of compromise. The Playbook as with the Cyber Incident Response Plan (CIRP) will require to be adjusted to reflect the organisational make up.

Playbooks describe the activities of those directly involved in managing specific cyber incidents. However, it is important to acknowledge the speed at which cyber incidents can escalate and become a significant business disruptor requiring both business continuity and consequence management considerations. Early consideration should be given to engaging Business Continuity, Resilience Leads in order that the wider issues can be effectively managed. Business Continuity and Resilience leads within the organisation must therefore be familiar with the CIRP and Playbooks and how they link to wider Incident response and Exercising Playbooks and arrangements.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Cyber Incident Response: Ransomware Playbook is to define activities that should be considered when detecting, analysing and remediating a Ransomware incident. The playbook also identifies the key stakeholders that may be required to undertake these specific activities.

## Ransomware Definition

Ransomware is a type of malicious software in which the data on a victim's computer is locked, typically by encryption, and payment is demanded before the ransomed data is decrypted and access is returned to the victim. The motive for ransomware attacks is nearly always monetary, and unlike other types of attacks, the victim is usually notified that an exploit has occurred and is given instructions on how to recover from the attack.

## Scope

This document has been designed for the use of the first responders such as the Service Desk team when responding to a Cyber incident. It is not standalone and must be used alongside the CIRP.

## Review Cycle

This document is to be reviewed for continued relevancy by the Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT) lead at least once every 12 months; following any major cyber incidents, a change of vendor, or the acquisition of new security services.

# Preparation Phase

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| **Preparation Phase** | | |
| **Phase objectives** | The preparation phase has the following objectives:   * Prepare to respond to cyber incident in a timely and effective manner; * Inform employees of their role in remediating a Ransomware incident including reporting mechanisms. | |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Prepare to respond** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Review and rehearse cyber incident response procedures including:-   * technical and business roles and responsibilities * escalation to major incident management, where necessary | * Head of Information Governance * Head of IT * Information Security Manager * Team Leader * Service Delivery Manager * Service Desk Analysts/Technicians * Legal Team * Communications Team * Resilience Lead * Business Continuity Lead |
| Review recent cyber incidents and the outputs. | * Information Security Manager |
| Review threat intelligence for threats to the organisation, brands and the sector, as well as common patterns and newly developing risks and vulnerabilities. | * Information Security Manager |
| Ensure appropriate access to any necessary documentation and information, including out-of-hours access, for the following:   * CIRP; * <<Network Architecture Diagrams>>; ( insert Links) * <<Data Flow Diagrams>>.( insert Links) | * Information Security Manager |
| Identify and obtain the services of a 3rd party Cyber Forensic provider. | * Information Security Manager |
| Define Threat and Risk Indicators and Alerting pattern within the organisation’s security information and event management (SIEM) solution. | * Information Security Manager |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Inform employees** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: |  |
| Conduct regular awareness campaigns to highlight information security risks faced by employees, including:   * Phishing attacks and malicious emails; * Ransomware; * Reporting a suspected cyber incident. | * Head of IT * Information Security Manager * Resilience Lead * Business Continuity Lead |
| Ensure regular security training is mandated for those employees managing personal, confidential or high risk data and systems. | * Head of IT * Information Security Manager * HR * L&D Department * Resilience Lead * Business Continuity Lead |

# Detect

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| **Detection Phase** | | |
| **Phase objectives** | The detection phase has the following objectives:   * Detect and report a breach or compromise of the confidentiality, integrity or availability of organisational data; * Complete initial investigation of the Ransomware; * Report the Ransomware attack or compromise data formally to the correct team as a cyber incident. | |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Detect and report the incident** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: |  |
| Monitor detection channels, both automatic and manual, customer and staff channels and social media for indications of a data breach or compromise, these can include but are not limited to:   * Automated AV alerts * Detection from email filters * Unusual activity on end-point devices, servers or phones * Reports from end-users | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Report the cyber incident via the Service Desk. If a ticket does not exist already, raise a ticket containing minimum information.  To report an incident, follow the process defined in the CIRP. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Consider whether data loss or data breach has occurred and if so refer to data breach playbook. | * Information Security Manager * Information Governance Team |
| Classify the cyber incident, based upon available information related to the data loss and the incident types (see CIRP). | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Report the cyber incident in accordance with the organisation’s CIRP.  Consider the Intelligence value to other organisations and share on the CiSP | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| Where appropriate consider reporting requirements to Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO), relevant regulator and or Competent Authority (NISD), National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and / or Police Scotland | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Initial investigation of the incident** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Mobilise the CIRT to begin initial investigation of the cyber incident (see staff contact details within CIRP). | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT   The following may also be included in the incident response team where appropriate for the incident:   * Service Desk Analysts * Server Desk Technicians * Server Team * Mobile Device Team |
| Identify likelihood of widespread Ransomware infection. | * Head of IT * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| Collate initial incident data including as a minimum for following;   * Type of cyber incident; * How was the cyber incident reported; * Where are Ransomware messages appearing; * Identify the attack email; * Location of detection(s), both physical and logical; * Number of affected assets across the organisation (initial), is this increasing; * Additional reporting relating to affected assets, including AV logs, system event logs, and network monitoring logs; * Preliminary business impact; and * Any current action being undertaken. | * Head of IT * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| Secure artefacts, including copies of suspected malicious software and forensic copies of affected system(s) for future analysis. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Research Threat Intelligence sources and consider Cyber Security Information Sharing Partnership (CiSP) submission to gain further intelligence and support mitigation by others. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Review cyber incident categorisation to validate the cyber incident type as a Ransomware attack and assess the incident priority, based upon the initial investigation. (See CIRP for Incident Severity Matrix) | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Incident reporting** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Report the cyber incident in accordance with the organisation’s CIRP.  Specifically Consider the Intelligence value to other organisations and share on the CiSP | * Information Security Manager * CIRT |
| Consider whether the Incident meets the Scottish Public Sector cyber Incident Central Notification and Co-ordination Policy as contained within the CIRP. | * Information Security Manager * CIRT * CIRT * Resilience Lead * Business Continuity Lead |
| Where appropriate consider reporting requirements to Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO), relevant regulator and or Competent Authority (NISD), National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and / or Police Scotland | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Establish the requirement for a full forensic investigation** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Consider conducting a full forensic investigation, on the advice of legal counsel. All evidence handling should be done in line with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Good Practice Guide for Digital Evidence. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |

# Analyse

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| **Analysis Phase** | | |
| **Phase objectives** | The analysis phase has the following key objectives:   * Analyse the cyber incident to uncover the scope of the attack; * Identify and report potentially compromised data and the impact of such a compromise; * Establish the requirement for a full forensic investigation; * Develop a remediation plan based upon the scope and details of the cyber incident. | |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Analyse the extent of the incident** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Engage technical staff from resolver groups. | * Service Desk Technicians * Core IT CIRT |
| Classify the ransomware by submission to multiple AV vendors and determine the family it belongs to. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Scope the attack.   * Where are ransom messages appearing? * Are there any infected network drives? Which? * Identify the attack email or ingress point and the extent of travel. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Reverse-engineer the Ransomware in a secure environment to understand its mechanisms, and the functionality it implements. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * External Security Partner * NCSC * Police Scotland |
| Execute the Ransomware in a secure environment or sandbox, segregated from the business network, to determine its behaviour on a test system, including created files, launched services, modified registry keys and network communications. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * External Security Partner * NCSC * Police Scotland |
| Review affected infrastructure for indicators of compromise derived from the malware analysis to identify any additional compromised system(s). | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Preserve all evidence to support attribution or anticipated legal action. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Examine threat intelligence feeds to determine if the ransomware attack is bespoke and targeted at specific accounts, infrastructure or systems. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Verify all infected assets are in the process of being recalled and quarantined. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Identify and report potentially compromised data** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Identify any data impacted by the ransomware attack, including data-in-transit. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| Engage data owners and the business to understand the business impact of the compromised data. | * Information Security Manager * CIRT * Head of IT |
| Report the Cyber incident to the organisation’s senior stakeholders, as required. | * Information Security Manager * CIRT |
| Establish the likelihood that identified data’s confidentiality, integrity or availability was compromised. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| Consider whether reporting suspected or confirmed unauthorised access to any personal data to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) is appropriate at this stage.  Consider reporting to incident to Police Scotland  Consider reporting requirements to relevant regulator or Competent Authority if applicable | * Information Security Manager * CIRT * Data Protection Officer * Legal Services |
| Update the senior stakeholders of any suspected or confirmed data breach including the unauthorised access to personal or sensitive organisational data. | * Information Security Manager * CIRT * Data Protection Officer |
| CIRT to immediately report any suspected or confirmed data breach including any personal/ data breach to the appropriate parties (refer to data loss/breach playbook). | * Information Security Manager * CIRT * Data Protection Officer * Legal Services` |
|  | Consider Intelligence Sharing value on CiSP | * Information Security Manager * Resilience Lead |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Develop a remediation plan** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Incorporate technical and business analysis to develop a prioritised remediation plan. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| Implement a communications strategy in line with the remediation plan. | * Head of IT * Information Security Manager * CIRT * Communications Team * Resilience Lead * Business Continuity Lead |

# Remediation – Contain, Eradicate and Recover

| **Remediation Phase** | | |
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| **Phase objectives** | The remediation phase has the following objectives:   * Contain the effects of the ransomware on the targeted systems; * Eradicate the ransomware from the network through agreed mitigation measures; * Recover affected systems and services back to a Business As Usual (BAU) state. | |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Containment** | Contain the technical mechanisms of the ransomware attack, including: | |
| Reduce any further malicious activity by quarantining affected systems and removing them from the network, where possible, or applying access controls to isolate from production networks. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| Develop protection measures derived from the results of malicious code analysis to protect infrastructure from the malicious code and other ransomware that may attempt to infect using the same mechanism. | * Information Security Manager * CIRT |
| Define scope by searching for:   * The SHA-1 process name; * The executable file name; * The URL or IP address of similar connections on the network. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| In the case of an email attack:   * Block the sender and the message by marking it as spam; * Block the IP address identified in the email header.   In the case of a website compromise:   * Block the website at the network perimeter; * Sinkhole the domain on internal DNS servers; * Block the site IP address on the network firewall; * Ensure all web browsers used within DANB have the latest patches; * Encourage users to switch to newer browsers. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Block access to any identified Remote Access Tools (RATs) to prevent communication with command and control servers, websites and exploited applications. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Suspend the login credentials of suspected compromised accounts. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Secure copies of the malicious code, affected systems and any identified artefacts for further investigation (engaging with forensic support if forensic copies are required). | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Inform business data owner(s) and stakeholders of the progress of containment activities. | * Information Security Manager |
| Remind users to move the attack email to the ‘Junk’ folder. | * Information Security Manager |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Eradication** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Identify removal methods from the results of the malicious code analysis and trusted sources (AV providers). | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Complete an automated or manual removal process to eradicate ransomware or compromised executables using appropriate tools. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Conduct a restoration of affected networked systems from a trusted back up. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Re-install any standalone systems from a clean OS back-up before updating with trusted data back-ups. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Change any compromised account details. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Continue to monitor for signatures and other indicators of compromise to prevent the ransomware attack from re-emerging. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Confirm policy compliance across the estate. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Recover to BAU** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Recover systems based on business impact analysis and business criticality. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| Complete Ransomware scanning of all systems, across the estate. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Re-image systems. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Re-set the credentials of all involved system(s) and users account details. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Reintegrate previously compromised systems. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Restore any corrupted or destroyed data. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Restore any suspended services. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Establish monitoring to detect further suspicious activity. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |
| Co-ordinate the implementation of any necessary patches or vulnerability remediation activities. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT |

# Post Incident

| **Post-Incident Activities Phase** | | |
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| **Phase objectives** | The post-incident activities phase has the following objectives:   * Complete an incident report including all incident details and activities; * Complete the lessons identified and problem management process; * Publish appropriate internal and external communications. | |
| **Activity** | **Description** | **Stakeholders** |
| **Incident reporting** | Draft a post-incident report that includes the following details as a minimum:   * Details of the cause, impact and actions taken to mitigate the cyber incident, and including timings, type and location of incident as well as the effect on users; * Activities undertaken by relevant resolver groups, service providers and business stakeholders that enabled normal business operations to resume; * Recommendations where any aspects of people, process or technology could be improved across the organisation to help prevent a similar Cyber incident from reoccurring, as part of a formalised lessons identified process. | * Senior Stakeholders * Head of Information Governance * Head of IT * Audit Committee * Information Security Manager * Resilience Lead * Business Continuity Lead |
| **Lessons Identified & Problem Management** | Complete the formal lessons identified process to feedback into future preparation activities. | * Information Security Manager * CIRT |
| Consider sharing lessons identified with the wider Scottish Public Sector. | * Information Security Manager * CIRT * Resilience Lead * Business Continuity Lead |
| Conduct root cause analysis to identify and remediate underlying vulnerabilities. | * Information Security Manager * Core IT CIRT * CIRT |
| **Human Resources** | Review staff welfare; working hours, over time, time off in lieu (TOIL) and expenses. | * Information Security Manager * HR |
| **Communications** | Activities may include, but are not limited to: | |
| Publish internal communications to inform and educate employees on ransomware attacks and security awareness. | * Information Security Manager * CIRT * Communications |
| Publish external communications, if appropriate, in line with the communications strategy to provide advice to customers, engage with the market, and inform press of the cyber incident.  These communications should provide key information of the cyber incident without leaving the organisation vulnerable or inciting further ransomware attacks. | * Head of IT * Information Security Manager * Communications Team |

# Annex A: Flow Diagram

