Case study 1

1. What is a ransomware attack?

A ransomware is a malicious software that locks up computer files with all-but-unbreakable encryption and then demands a ransom for its release. A ransomware attack is a cyber-attack on computers that involves the use of ransomware software.

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

Ransomware demands a payment in exchange of giving access to computers. The payment is bitcoin. It requires direct contact between computer networks. It affects local computers, government agencies, banks, and companies.

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

In Canada, a hospital in Oshawa is affected by this attack. Fortunately, no patient was affected. This is because the staff was able to deflect the virus.

Ontario health ministry was alerted about the attack in Oshawa and told to maintain high security.

4. How badly was Canada affected?

Canada was not affected as badly as some other countries were like Ukraine.

5. What other countries were affected?

Ukraine, Russia, United States, Canada, Britain, Poland, Italy and Germany

6. Where did the attack come from?

The origin of the attack is unknown. The Ukrainian police suspect that it may have spread through a rogue update to a piece of software called MEDoc.

7. Why was the attack started?

The police suspects that Ukraine has been a target of pro-Russian hackers and the motives of those behind the malware remain unknown. The one reason the attack was started was because they demanded $300 in bitcoin to give you access to your computer.

8. How was the attacked stopped?

The attack was stopped by downloading and installing the latest security patches. The computers were also temporarily disconnected from the internet to stop the virus from spreading.

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

I could be affected by a ransomware attack if my antivirus or computer software is out of date. Or if I open suspicious links from my email or websites I do not trust.

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

To protect from a ransomware attack we need antivirus. By keeping my computers’ software up-to-date, I can protect myself from a ransomware attack because the latest updates often patch up security holes. Also, by not clicking on suspicious links in emails or on the internet since these links can lead to harmful files that have viruses in them.