

# Malware & Ransomware

Malware is malicious software designed to infiltrate systems, steal information, damage files, or disrupt operations. One of the most damaging forms, ransomware, encrypts data and demands payment for its release. These attacks can cripple an organisation, causing downtime, data loss, and financial harm.



## How Attacks Spread

### Malicious Downloads

Compromised websites or fake software updates can deliver hidden malware. Even trusted-looking downloads may contain harmful code.

**Tip:** Only download software and updates from official, trusted sources.

### Stopping the Threat

Quick reporting and up-to-date systems are your best defence. Delays give malware more time to spread.

**Tip:** Report suspicious activity immediately and keep your devices patched and updated.

### Phishing Emails and Attachments

Malware often hides in email links or attachments that appear legitimate. Once opened, it installs silently in the background.

**Tip:** Never click on unknown links or attachments; verify before you act.

### Ransomware Impact

Ransomware locks or encrypts critical files, making them inaccessible until a ransom is paid. Paying doesn't guarantee recovery, and attackers may strike again.

**Tip:** Keep secure backups stored offline to recover data safely without paying criminals.

