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Ransomware targets victims through Visa deals

Credit card-based scams are nothing new -- but ransomware makes these campaigns far more dangerous.



By [Charlie Osborne](#) for [Zero Day](#) | March 2, 2016 -- 11:51 GMT (03:51 PST) | Topic: [Security](#)

Your files are encrypted.

To get the key to decrypt files you have to pay **500 USD**. If payment is not made before **29/02/16 6**
the cost of decrypting files will increase **2** times and will be **1000 USD**

Prior to increasing the amount left:

158h 37m 17s

First connect IP: [REDACTED]

[Refresh](#)[Payment](#)[FAQ](#)[Decrypt 1 file for FREE](#)[Support](#)

We present a special software - CryptoWall Decrypter - which allows to decrypt and return control to all your encrypted files.
How to buy CryptoWall decrypter?

1. You can make a payment with BitCoins, there are many methods to get them.



2. You should register BitCoin wallet ([simplest online wallet](#) OR [some other methods of creating wallet](#))

3. Purchasing Bitcoins - Although it's not yet easy to buy bitcoins, it's getting simpler every day.

Here are our recommendations:

Symantec

If you have a Visa credit card, be careful not to fall for a new ransomware phishing campaign which offers you benefits and rewards, researchers say.

A new and unusual phishing campaign has caught the eye of Symantec. The scheme relates to credit cards -- but attempts to lure consumers to download ransomware instead of handing over their financial details.

While fraudulent credit-card based spam is nothing new, the introduction of ransomware into the mix is a new avenue cyberattackers are using to try and force people out of their hard-earned cash to keep their system files and content.

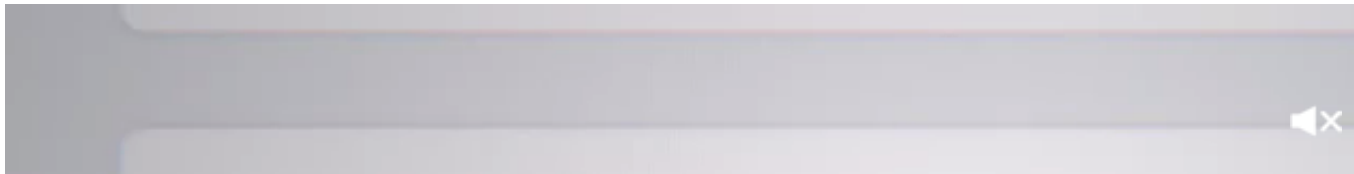
The news follows the latest high-profile infection case to hit the headlines; that of two German hospitals which [became victims of ransomware](#) (<http://www.zdnet.com/article/cybercriminals-hold-german-hospitals-to-ransom/>) which booted the organizations out of their servers and IT systems. Neither hospital has bowed to the cyberattacker's demand for payment.

According to [researchers from Symantec](#) (<http://www.symantec.com/connect/fr/blogs/spam-offering-fake-visa-benefits-rewards-leads-teslacrypt-ransomware>), the new phishing campaign pretends to offer Visa rewards and benefits as bait to lure victims into downloading malicious files containing ransomware.

The emails are crafted to appear from Visa Total Rewards and include information pertaining to the credit card's reward schemes. An archived file is attached to these emails as a whitepaper which contains additional information about rewards for customers -- however, if the file is opened, the victim will see nothing more than an obfuscated JavaScript file.

ADVERTISING





If a victim opens the file, the JavaScript downloads TeslaCrypt 2.0, a well-known Trojan which was upgraded in 2014 to 2015 and is still not crackable through free encryption tools.

Older versions stored decryption keys in files and used weak encryption algorithms which gave researchers the opportunity to develop tools to remove the malware -- but, unfortunately, the latest version uses the [system registry instead](#) (<https://blog.kaspersky.com/teslacrypt-strikes-again/10860/>) and there is no cracking software currently available.



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data=OuJifVtEKZqw3Cw4Y_4tSrNTHqsBovsZeSZsBNpUuFscIN3cOdNakm9eRQr1ZPp8_NS3T1moDCbkM12a0JYIMDdTnhGNhrwpL13h7FaVFvUROPGDn6IT5tza4On79wPnmMlloQF2MmE5i3kMX_x-gG_ys_lHoY4Ejfs99pYa4AVbOuyfJlhpOYbyVWVGJyUd8gNhPsNBAti-zzAEP7oYQBadcOW48JtSViXiqR2gNy4gl6i9oNQMftWHNH05XbB7hLvsoUGHL2QGrgDAB6ne3G4HHPKfG-QaqSj6zMXXW39bJkCE4KL7l4til1)

Once downloaded, the ransomware encrypts all user files and locks the system. TeslaCrypt then launches a holding screen and demands a payment of 1.2BTC -- approximately \$500 -- to be paid within 160 hours if users wish to retrieve access to their files. If this does not happen and the user refuses, the fee doubles to \$1000.

The ransomware offers users the chance to select and decrypt a single file for free to place additional pressure on them to pay -- as well as prove the other files are out

MORE SECURITY NEWS

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of reach if the ransom is not paid.

Your friendly neighborhood cyberattacker also provides a contact form to help victims struggling to make the payment.

Symantec says the campaign began as early as 17 February and remains ongoing. The cybersecurity firm's tracking suggests the peak may have already passed, but cyberattackers who utilize ransomware are nothing if not persistent, and so it would



The phishing campaign is targeting English-speaking countries, with the majority of span

An advertisement for business copiers. It features a white and blue copier on the left. The text on the right is white on an orange background. It says 'NEED A COPIER?' in large letters, followed by 'Get Quotes for Business Copiers & Comparer 170+ Models!'. Below that is a dark blue button with the text 'Get Quotes →' in white. At the bottom, it says 'BUYERZONE' in white.

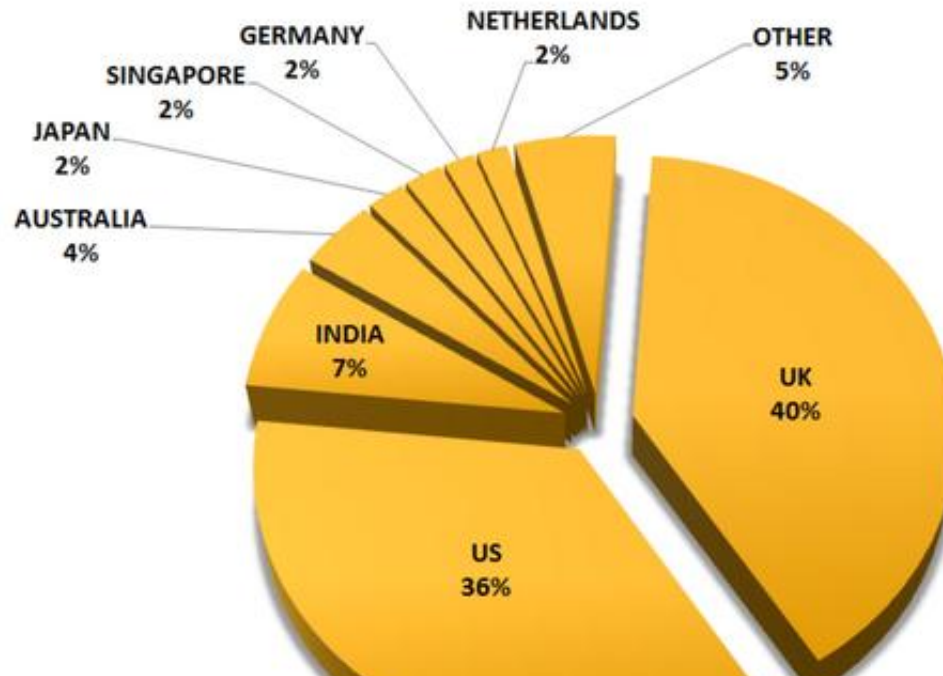
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In order to limit the damage ransomware and other strains of malware can cause to your PC, you should backup your files on a regular basis. If you are unfortunate enough to become a victim of ransomware, the first thing to do is pick up another device and do some research -- as some security companies offer [free unlocking software](#)

(<http://www.zdnet.com/article/ransomware-rescue-kit-released-to-combat-criminal-enterprise/>) for some ransomware families.

If not, consult a professional to see if there is the possibility of eradicating the malware without being forced to pay the ransom.

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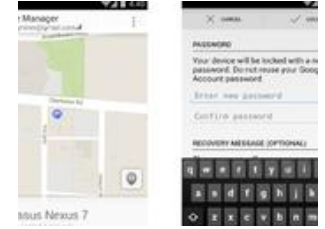
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1 - 5 of 9

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Windows 10 tip: Access symbols, emojis, and other special characters

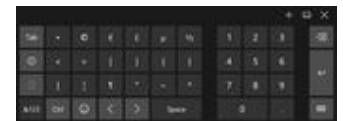
Entering special characters, including foreign currency symbols, fractions, and emoji, is a cumbersome task on most physical keyboards. Use this hidden Windows 10 option to open an on-screen keyboard that puts all those options at your fingertips.



By [Ed Bott](#) for [The Ed Bott Report](#) | March 2, 2016 -- 12:14 GMT (04:14 PST) | Topic: [Windows 10](#)

Entering special characters in Windows can be inconvenient if those characters aren't supported directly by your desktop or laptop keyboard. In earlier versions of Windows, your only options are to memorize ANSI codes (which require a numeric keypad to enter) or to use an external utility.

With Windows 10, there's an easier option: Use the touch keyboard. Don't be fooled by that name. The touch keyboard responds just fine to mouse clicks. This keyboard appears automatically if you're using a touchscreen-equipped Windows 10 PC in Tablet PC mode. Here's how to make sure



(<http://zdnet4.cbsstatic.com/2016/03/02/0e99-4369-geed-2ba1a814875d/win10->

it's at the ready even if you're using a conventional PC without a touchscreen.

[touch-keyboard.jpg](#))

Right-click any empty space on the taskbar to open the taskbar customization menu and then click the **Show touch keyboard button** option.

Click image to enlarge

That action immediately adds a new button just to the left of the clock on the right side of the taskbar. Click that button while working in any desktop program or Windows 10 app to slide up the on-screen keyboard. Here are a few things you can do:

- Click any letter or symbol to see variations of that letter, including those with accents and diacritical marks. On the symbols layout, for example, click and hold the 1/2 symbol to see eight additional fractions.
- Click the button labeled &123 to change from the standard QWERTY layout to one filled with symbols. Use the right and left arrows just above that button to display a second screen full of symbols, including symbols for the Euro and British Pound on a U.S. English configuration.
- Click the smiley face to display a keyboard layout filled with emojis and emoticons. Use the icons to the right to change to different groups of emojis, each of which has additional layouts available using the left and right arrow below Tab.

Click anywhere outside the keyboard or resume typing on your physical keyboard to hide the touch keyboard.

Previous tip: [How to access Cortana's secret calculator](#)

Next week: [Another Windows 10 tip from Ed Bott \(http://www.zdnet.com/article/windows-10-tip-how-to-access-cortanas-secret-calculator/\)](http://www.zdnet.com/article/windows-10-tip-how-to-access-cortanas-secret-calculator/)

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