Urgent Alert:
“ONLINE EXTORTION DEMAND AFFECTING UK BUSINESSES”

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# ONLINE EXTORTION DEMAND AFFECTING UK BUSINESSES

The information contained within this alert is based on a number of reports made to Action Fraud. The purpose of this alert is to make businesses aware of the problem and to share information with other Law Enforcement Agencies.

## ALERT

Within the past 24 hours a number of businesses throughout the UK have received extortion demands from a group calling themselves 'Lizard Squad'.

**Method of Attack:**
The group have sent emails demanding payment of 5 Bitcoins, to be paid by a certain time and date. The email states that this demand will increase by 5 Bitcoins for each day that it goes unpaid.

If their demand is not met, they have threatened to launch a Denial of Service attack against the businesses' websites and networks, taking them offline until payment is made.

The demand states that once their actions have started, they cannot be undone.

## PROTECTION / PREVENTION ADVICE

**What to do if you’ve received one of these demands:**

- Report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or by using the online reporting tool
- Do not pay the demand
- Retain the original emails (with headers)
- Maintain a timeline of the attack, recording all times, type and content of the contact

**If you are experiencing a DDoS right now you should:**

- Report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 immediately.
- Call your Internet Service Provider (ISP) (or hosting provider if you do not host your own Web server), tell them you are under attack and ask for help.
- Keep a timeline of events and save server logs, web logs, email logs, any packet capture, network graphs, reports etc.

**Get Safe Online top tips for protecting your business from a DDoS:**

- Consider the likelihood and risks to your organisation of a DDoS attack, and put appropriate threat reduction/mitigation measures in place.
- If you consider that protection is necessary, speak to a DDoS prevention specialist.
- Whether you are at risk of a DDoS attack or not, you should have the hosting facilities in place to handle large, unexpected volumes of website hits.
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