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**Fred Holzsager,
IT Director
Holzsager Technology Services**
and
Publisher of
The Tech Insighter

Inside This Issue

Snapple Real Fact #440
"The pupils in goats' eyes are rectangular."

The Tech Insighter

"Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitably"

SPOTTING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MALWARE AND RANSOMWARE

Bad software includes malware and ransomware. **They can damage your computer or steal your data. It is critical to understand the difference between them to protect yourself and your business effectively.** This article will help you understand both types of threats.

What is Malware?

Malware is a general term that means "malicious software." This includes many types of harmful programs. Malware can do different bad things to your computer, such as corrupting files or stealing personal information.

Types of Malware

There are many types of malware. Here are some common ones:

• **Viruses**: These spread from one computer to another.

• **Worms**: They can copy themselves without your help.

• **Trojans**: They trick you into thinking they're good programs.

• **Spyware**: This type watches what you do on your computer.

What Malware Does

Malware can cause a lot of problems. It might:

• Slow down your computer
• Delete your files
• Steal your personal info
• Use your computer to attack others

What is Ransomware?

Ransomware is a type of malware. It locks your files or your entire computer. Then, it demands money to unlock them. It is a form of digital kidnapping of your data.

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Quotations

"Experience is not what happens to you. It's what you do with what happens to you."

—Aldus Huxley

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."

—Dolly Parton

"I don't stop when I'm tired. I stop when I'm done."

—David Goggins

"The biggest adventure you can ever take is to live the life of your dreams."
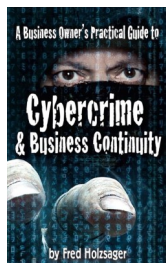
—Oprah Winfrey

"Those who are at war with others are not at peace with themselves."

—William Hazlitt

"We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves."

—Dalai Lama

Read Fred's Book!

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Spotting the Difference Between Malware and Ransomware

How Ransomware Works

Ransomware goes by a pretty basic pattern:
1. It infects your computer, normally through an e-mail or download.

2. It encrypts your files. This means it locks them with a secret code.

3. It displays a message. The message requests money to decrypt your files.

4. You may be provided with a key to unlock the files if you pay. In other cases, the attackers just abscond with your money.

Types of Ransomware

There are primarily two types of ransomware:
1. **Locker ransomware**: This locks the whole computer.
2. **Crypto ransomware**: This only encrypts your files.

Do Malware and Ransomware Differ?

Goals

• **Malware**: Harms your computer, steals data, or uses your computer for attacks.

• **Ransomware**: Locks your files and demands payment.

Methods

• **Malware**: Works in secret. You might not know it's there.
• **Ransomware**: Shows up. It needs to make its presence known on your computer and demands money for its removal.

Effects

• **Malware**: There are several different effects malware can have on your computer.

• **Ransomware**: Computer or important files are always locked.

How Does It Get onto Your Computer?

> Malware is a general term that means *"malicious software."*

Common Entry Points

• Through email attachments
• Via phony websites
• Via a USB drive with an infection
• From using outdated software

How Can You Protect Yourself?

Keep your software up to date
• Use strong passwords
• Don't click on strange links or attachments
• Backup your files regularly

Why It Pays to Know the Difference

• **Better Prevention**. The more you know what you are up against, the better your chance at taking the right steps to keep yourself safe.

• **Faster Response**. If you are under attack, knowing what type of threat it is helps you take quicker action.

We want to keep you secure in the face of all of cyber threats.

Contact us if you need more information. We can be reached at **(201) 797-5050** or by email at **support@tech4now.com**. Thank you

QUICK SECURITY TIPS: Do you use an Amazon Alexa device? Did you know that as of March 28, Amazon has made a requirement Echo users may no longer set their devices to keeping verbal requests *local only* in order to avoid sending voice recordings to the Amazon Cloud. As of that date your voice will be recorded and sent to the Amazon Cloud for its processing. They are doing this to train Amazon's generative AI features which depend upon Amazon Secure Cloud. This may also apply to your Ring doorbell communications. For more details, visit: *https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2025/03/everything-you-say-to-your-echo-will-be-sent-to-amazon-starting-on-march-28/* ← **Please be sure to view this page.**

"I DIDN'T KNOW"

Unfortunately, That Excuse Doesn't Replenish Your Bank Account, Resolve A Data Breach Or Erase Any Fines And Lawsuits.

It's coming ...

• That day a hacker steals critical data, rendering your office useless

• That day when your bank account or credit card is compromised

• Or that day when your customers' private lives are uprooted

Cybercriminals and hackers are constantly inventing NEW ways to infiltrate your company, steal your assets and disrupt your life. The ONLY way to STOP THEM is this:

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More Cringeworthies and Ponderances from Dad

How many times have you heard a quick one or two liner that made you cringe or ponder? How about some more? *Many memes come from* Dad Jokes Daily *of* Facebook.

☺ I never called you stupid, but when I asked you to spell "orange" and you asked me the fruit or color, it kind of caught me offguard.

☺ Do you remember, before the Internet, people thought the cause of stupidity was the lack of access to information?
Yeah, well it wasn't that.

☺ Would it kill the makers of avocados to put a different toy inside? I have more than 50 wooden balls already.

☺ It feels amazing to walk into a store and buy whatever I want without looking at the price tag. Thank you, Dollar Tree!

☺ Why call the character Iron-Man and not *Fe*-male?

☺ I just paid my taxes. The roads should be fixed any day now.

☺ Is it true when a cougar gets so old, she needs a hearing aid... she becomes a Def Leppard?

☺ We do not throw perfectly good food away in our house. We put it in Tupperware containers and keep it in our refrigerator until it goes bad...then, we throw it away.

☺ Old people at weddings always poke me and say, "You're next!" So, I started doing the same thing at funerals.

☺ I was walking down the road this morning and first got hit by a violin, then a clarinet, and then, by a piano. I think it was an orchestrated attack.

☺ Those who say their wedding day was the best day of their life obviously have never had two Kitkat bars fall at once from a vending machine.

☺ I just read that alligators can grow up to 15 feet, but I haven't seen any with more than 4.

☺ Do you have a flat stomach? Me: Yeah, but the "L" is silent.

☺ My favorite part of teaching your kid to drive is almost dying, then being told to "Chill!"

☺ If you're ever with me and someone comes up to me and starts talking and I don't introduce you, it's strictly because I don't remember their name. So, please feel to be awesome and introduce yourself so I can then hear their name and pretend I knew it all along.

☺ I saw an audiologist today, but I don't think I'll get a second opinion. Why on earth would I need a heron egg?

☺ I was on a train with a woman seated facing me. She looked at me and said, "Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place."
I asked her, "Are you single?" She replied, "No, I'm a dentist."

☺ When your wife starts a sentence with "When you get a chance..." Just go ahead and start putting on your shoes. She means now.

☺ A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

Quick Productivity Tips

NOTE: It is best to read this column while at your computer for a better understanding of the content presented. *Enjoy!*

In the current release of **Windows 11**, security has taken a major role in its implementation. Did you notice when you started with your configuration of the machine, you had no option to login without a password? Everyone must have a password to login. This prevents unauthorized users from going onto your machine so easily—think of it as a bump in the road for hackers.

As in Windows 10, you also have other ***Sign-in options*** you can use to login to the machine which are secure as well; however, they tend to use varied methods for you to access the machine --Microsoft named these options "Windows Hello":
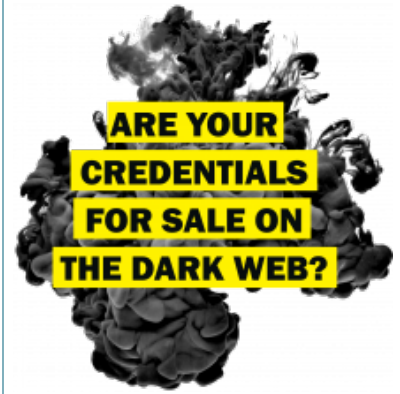
1.**Fingerprint recognition**– if your administrator has not disabled this feature, depending on the machine you use (if it has the fingerprint reader built-in), you may select that option. Windows will have you touch a certain button from different angles with specific fingers. After you set this up, all you need to do is touch the button and you are in!

2.**Facial recognition**—this feature records certain points on your face and maps them in order to recognize you. If you do the scan with your eyes open, then you must always use it with your eyes open. The angle of the image capture of your face may also be critical. If you cannot gain access with facial or finger-print, then you may need to revert to using your password.

3.If you want to make your access simpler than your password that requires a minimum of 10 to 12 letters, numbers and characters, then you might want to implement a **PIN**. PIN stands for **P**ersonal **I**dentification **N**umber. The options for your Windows Hello PIN include using a number

with 4 to 8 digits. If you enable letters and symbols, you should use at least 12 of mixed upper/lower case, numbers and symbols to keep it complex, but memorable. You will use it every day. When you setup a PIN, you will likely be prompted for your PIN at every subsequent login, not your password.

4.The fourth method, albeit not part of Windows Hello, is **using a security key**. A security key is a physical electronic "key" that is commonly inserted into the USB port on the computer. Unless you were issued one for greater security, it is unlikely that you will be using one.

All of the Sign-In options are located in Settings > Accounts > Sign-in options. Windows 11 offers you "Additional Settings" on the same page [below the options]. All contribute to your system's security. They include "**If you've been away, when should Windows require you to sign in again?** The default is "When PC wakes up from sleep," but it may be after a screen lock or other conditions. **Dynamic Lock** automatically locks your device when you're away. This is a configuration that works using Bluetooth on your PC and on your smartphone to detect your absence.

Automatically save my restartable apps and restart them when I sign back in is a setting of On or Off. If you were working in a special app that is in your system's Startup (under Settings > Apps), then you may be in luck. It is commonly set to OFF. Show account details such as my email address on the sign-in screen—typically set to OFF.

The last option is typically set to **ON** for **Use my sign-in info to automatically finish setting up after an update.** I hope these help you at work.

Holzsager Technology Services, LLC
P.O. Box 535
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410-0535
(201) 797-5050
info@tech4now.com

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Is there a topic or feature you would like to include in a future issue? Opinions and feedback are welcome and encouraged. Please send us an e-mail or call our direct line.

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April 2025

The Lighter Side...

Gender Geography
I can't tell if my grandfather was a genius or if I was just way too innocent. He asked me if I knew what the geography of a woman is like. I asked him what he meant.

He said, "Between the ages of 18 and 22, a woman is like Africa: half discovered, have wild; fertile and naturally beautiful.

Between the ages of 23 and 30, a woman is like Europe: half developed and open to trade; especially for something that's valuable.

Between the ages of 31 and 35, a woman is like Spain, very hot and convinced of her own beauty.

Between 36 and 40, a woman is like Greece, slightly aging, but still a desirable place to visit.

Between the ages of 41 and 50, a woman is like Great Britain with a glorious past.

Between the ages of 51 and 60, a woman is like Kosovo, she's been through war and she doesn't make the same mistake twice.

Between the ages of 61 and 70, a woman is like Canada, self-preserving, but still willing to meet new people."

Then, he said, "The geography of a man is very simple."

And I said, "What is it?"

"Between the ages of 1 and 100, a man is like North Korea and Russia, ruled by a pair of nuts!"

The Skin Graft
A husband and wife were in a terrible car accident and the wife's face had been badly burned. She was going to need a skin graft, but the doctors determined that none of her skin was going to be suitable as she was too thin. The husband said, "Use my skin. I'll be happy to do whatever I have to do."

The doctors determined that the only skin that was going to be suitable was from his buttocks. So, the husband and wife discussed it, and they decided that they would do the surgery, but they would tell no one of the details and they asked their doctor to honor their secret.

Well, they did the surgery and the wife looked incredible. If anything, her face healed and her skin was nicer than it had been before. She was constantly getting compliments on her appearance and one day, she said to her husband, "You know, I don't know if, in the chaos of everything, I ever really thanked you for everything you did for me and helped me recover.

The husband said, "Oh, Honey, every time your mother comes over and kisses you on the cheek is thanks enough for me!"
[Transcript from "The Skin Graft" on Instagram by Krysti Deal ("chasingthesweetlife")]

The Honeymoon Cruise **
A couple has just left their wedding ceremony and goes straight into the limousine to drive them to the cruise ship that's going to take them around the World on their honeymoon. On the way to the ship, the man says to his wife, "My goodness, it's too early to start working on a family. Don't you agree? We just got married. Let's stop off at a drug store and I'll pick up some protection. By the way, Darling, do you need anything?" The wife says, "Sure, please buy me some Dramamine in case I get sea sick." So, the chauffeur stops at a drug store, the man jumps out of the car and heads inside. In the drugstore, he says to the pharmacist, "I would like the largest box of condoms that you have and some Dramamine." The pharmacist looks at the man and says, "May I ask you a simple question, Sir?" The man replies, "Sure, what did you want to know?"

"If it makes you so nauseous, why do you do it?"
——-
** Told by Jerry Stiller on Conan O'Brien show