National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

CITY OF LONDON POLICE
National Policing Lead For Fraud

# Urgent Alert:
# "ONLINE EXTORTION DEMAND AFFECTING UK BUSINESSES"

## March 2016

## 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 CONTENT

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

Method of Attack:
The group have sent emails demanding payment of between £300 – £500 in Bitcoins by a certain date and time.

If their demand is not met, they have threatened to launch a cyber attack against the business and its reputation by automating hundreds of negative reviews online.

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

## PROTECTION / PREVENTION ADVICE

If you have received such a demand, or receive one in the future, you are advised to:

- Make a report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via the online reporting tool on www.actionfraud.police.uk
- 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

**All affected businesses, whether the attack is attempted or successful, should report in the first instance to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via www.actionfraud.police.uk**

## FEEDBACK

The NFIB needs feedback from our readers to evaluate the quality of our products and to inform our priorities. Please would you complete the following NFIB feedback survey through: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FeedbackSDU. This should take you no more than 2 minutes to complete. If you have other feedback or additional information that you would prefer to provide by email please send to NFIBfeedback@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk.

# Handling Instructions

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The cover sheets must not be detached from the report to which they refer.

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| **Protective Marking:** | **Not Protectively Marked** |
| **FOIA Exemption:** | NO |
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