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FTC Announces Agenda for Sept. 7 Event on Ransomware

FTC Chairwoman Will Open Half-Day Event

FOR RELEASE

August 15, 2016

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The Federal Trade Commission has announced the agenda for its Sept. 7 event looking at ransomware, which is one of the most challenging cybersecurity problems affecting consumers and businesses. Hackers use ransomware to gain access to consumer and business computers and encrypt files including photos, documents and other critical data, demanding a ransom in exchange for the key needed to decrypt the files.

FTC Chairwoman Edith Ramirez will provide opening remarks to start the event, which will include panel discussions examining the state of ransomware, how consumers and businesses can protect themselves and what to do if they fall prey to a ransomware scam.

The first panel will provide the latest statistics about the scope of the ransomware problem and include presentations from Cisco Talos, PhishLabs, and Flashpoint. The second panel will examine the best defenses against ransomware, and will include FTC Chief Technologist Lorrie Cranor along with representatives of Cylance, Red Canary, Symantec and Children's National Medical Center. The third panel will consider how victims should respond to a ransomware hacker's demands and include representatives from the FBI, Sylint, and PricewaterhouseCoopers and Charles River Associates.

In addition to the panel discussions, the FTC's Office of Technology Research and Investigation and New York University's computer science department will present research based on a study of dozens of ransomware variants.



Related Actions

[Fall Technology Series: Ransomware](#)

Media Resources

Our [Media Resources](#) library provides one-stop collections of materials on numerous issues in which the FTC has been actively engaged. These pages are especially useful for members of the media.

The event will take place at the FTC’s Constitution Center offices, 400 7th St SW, Washington, DC, and will begin at 1 p.m. and continue until 4:30 p.m. A full schedule and other details on the forum can be found on the [event’s webpage](#). The event is free and open to the public. No pre-registration is needed.

This event is the first in the [FTC’s Fall Technology Series](#). The next event will be a [seminar on drones on Oct. 17](#) followed by an [event examining Smart TV on Dec. 12](#).

The Federal Trade Commission works to promote competition, and [protect and educate consumers](#). You can [learn more about consumer topics](#) and file a [consumer complaint online](#) or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357). Like the FTC on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), read our [blogs](#) and [subscribe to press releases](#) for the latest FTC news and resources.

PRESS RELEASE REFERENCE:
[FTC to Host Fall Seminar Series on Emerging Consumer Technology Issues](#)

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