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A Report from the FBI – Cyber Prevention

A report from the FBI offers the following prevention tips bank and consumers can take to protect against ransomware (malware that takes over a computer system until money is paid):

ramp up awareness and training; end users are the target, so educate employees about this risk and what to do; patch operating systems, software and firmware devices; utilize ongoing centralized patch management systems; ensure anti-virus and anti-malware solutions automatically update and that regular scans are conducted; actively manage the use of privileged accounts (administrative access) to only give access to those who absolutely need it; configure access controls, including file, directory, and network share permissions, with least privilege in mind; disable macro scripts from office files transmitted via email; use Office Viewer software to open Microsoft Office files transmitted via e-mail instead of full office suite applications; and implement software restriction policies or other controls to prevent programs from executing from common ransomware locations.