Welcome to remedy IT's latest newsletter - providing information that will allow you to get the most of your technology while remaining safe on the Internet.
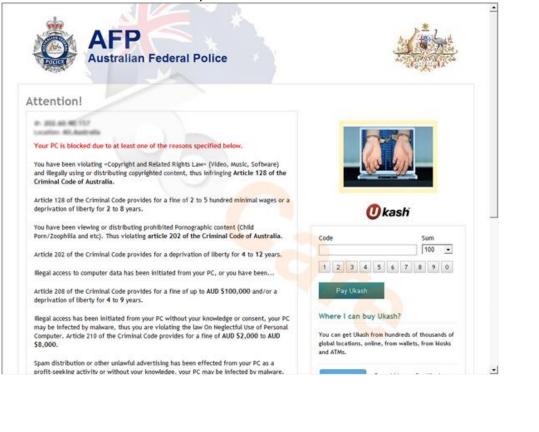

Ransomware is a growing menace on the internet. The examples I have seen are completely debilitating to the infected PC and are difficult to remove. Arming yourself with a little knowledge will hopefully help you to steer clear of the threats. This is definitely worth a read.

[Click here to forward the newsletter to anyone who might benefit from it.](#)

Ransomware is a type of virus best described as an online extortion racket. The virus locks or disables your PC in some way and then demands payment in the form of a "fine" to render your PC usable again. Like most scams, the ransomware message claims to come from a legitimate organization, the AFP in the example below, to try to convince victims that they did something wrong to incur the fine.

As with most of these things, paying the fine does nothing to fix the problem. The virus will still need to be removed manually.

Most variants of ransomware are described as "drive-by" malware since they can install themselves when a user simply visits a compromised website. Be very, very careful of following links in email from unknown sources.

More than ever I strongly recommend purchasing Kaspersky Internet Security. You used to get by with free virus protection and a bit of caution. It's getting to the point where it's nearly essential to pay for effective protection - even then there are no guarantees but the odds of staying safe will be on your side. You can download Kaspersky Internet Security online at www.kasperskyanz.com.au or purchase a disk at most computer retailers. Make sure you remove any current virus protection before installing Kaspersky.

If you're so inclined, Symantec has posted a 16 page whitepaper that discusses ransomware in greater detail.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Ken & The Team at remedy I.T.

Ken Hyams is the Managing Director or Remedy I.T. Pty Ltd, a Bulimba based IT consulting company catering to small business and home users. You can contact Ken directly at ken@remedyit.com.au.