



Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

NEWS RELEASE

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Richard R. Schmidt
Sheriff

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Sheriff Alerts Citizens to Email Blackmail Scam

Milwaukee, WI – The Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center (WSIC) issued a notification about an email blackmail scam that has surfaced in Wisconsin.

Sheriff Richard Schmidt said, "Hackers are extremely sophisticated and focus on disrupting your life for their own selfish desires. Protect your electronic devices, your personal information and your bank account by never trusting anything that comes through email regarding your personal or financial information. Consult with a professional you trust and contact law enforcement with potential scams."

Details of the scam, as listed in the WSIC notice, indicate that the scammers use leaked passwords to build credibility:

The WSIC has received several reports regarding an ongoing malicious e-mail campaign that attempts to blackmail the e-mail recipient into sending Bitcoin to the malicious actor. The malicious actor claims to have infected the e-mail recipient's computer with malicious software or "malware" while the recipient was browsing pornography. The malicious actor claims to have compromising photos or video of the e-mail recipient and threatens to release the media if the actor isn't paid a certain amount of Bitcoin.

What makes this scam noteworthy is that the malicious actor also provides one or more passwords that the e-mail recipient has used, in an effort to build credibility with the intended victim.

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