

# Consumer Alert: Scare Scam Returns

The scam is an email-based phishing scheme designed to scare consumers into believing that their computer has been breached and the hacker has full control and access to the history, activity, storage, data components, and web camera.

The email accuses the consumer of navigating to websites containing adult content and, in an attempt to extort the consumer, threatens to expose this activity unless a ransom is paid.

In response, the Nebraska Attorney General's Office recommends the following:

- Do not engage with the threat; in fact, do not respond at all.
- Avoid paying the ransom.
- Do not click on any links or open any attachments from an unfamiliar sender.
- Be suspicious of any messages that request your personal information or passwords.
- Practice good security measures and keep your computer's operating system and antivirus/anti-malware software routinely updated.
- Regularly change and use complex passwords.
- Cover the camera lens on your computer.
- Secure your wi-fi connection or consider connecting through a virtual private network (VPN).

