FRAUD ALERT: Sextortion Bitcoin Scam

The Counter Fraud Team have received three reports of emails being sent to schools who have been targeted by cyber criminals. The victims are told by the suspect they have access to their Facebook, smartphone contacts and all the online activity on the computer from a set period of days which varies in different emails.

The email states they have access to video footage of the victim watching pornography. The emails show current or legitimate passwords that have been used by staff at the school making the email sound credible. The emails demand payment in Bitcoin and failure to make payment will result in the video footage being published.

This is a common type of cyber-crime as reported by Action Fraud - https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/alert/alert-cyber-criminals-send-victims-their-own-passwords-in-new-sextortion-scam

It is likely that the fraudsters have obtained your email and password from one of the thousands of data breaches that have occurred and not by hacking into your computer.

Action Fraud reported the sextortion scam in July 2018, cyber-criminals continue to use this scam in order to obtain money from their victims.

DO:

- Report it to internal.audit@kent.gov.uk, the Counter Fraud Team will submit a report to Action Fraud
- Mark the email as spam and delete
- Ask staff to Immediately change all passwords for any online accounts and user log
- Always use a strong, separate password for important accounts, such as your email. Where available, enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA). This step could protect you in the future, if one account is breached no other account is affected in – for more information on how to create strong passwords visit - https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware#section_3
- See Action Fraud Alerts: Sextortion Scam

Don't:

- Reply to the email or engage with the criminal any further
- Feel pressured into making payment. You could be targeted again
- Stay silent you could be putting yourself and the organisation at risk

Invicta Audit and Counter Fraud