

How to protect yourself from ransomware

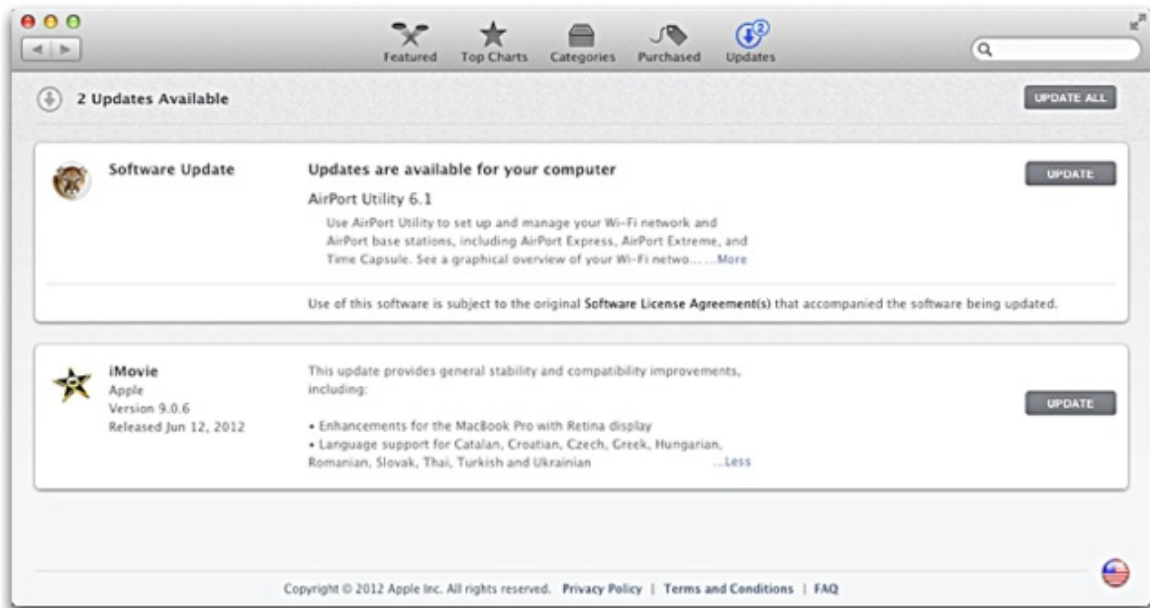
Ransomware is a computer virus that encrypts your files and then demands a ransom to unlock your files. Generally you can become infected if you click a link in an email or open an attachment to email. Unfortunately, these attacks are the new normal so be prepared with the following tips.

Here is what you can do to protect yourself:

- Do not click a link or open an attachment in an email unless you must. Even if the email came from someone you know, if you suspect the email in any way, don't take a chance. Better safe than sorry.
- Use a backup drive. Every computer should have a backup drive. If you suspect you have become infected, disconnect the backup drive immediately to protect it from the infection. If your hard drive crashes or your files become encrypted you can restore your entire computer from the backup drive.
- Use an online backup service such as [Carbonite](#) or [iDrive](#) which saves versions of your files. For example if your computer is infected on Friday restore the files to Thursday's version. Online backup services can restore all your files if any kind of disaster strikes (fire, flood, theft, etc.).
- Save your important files on cloud drives such as [Dropbox](#), [Google Drive](#), [Microsoft's OneDrive](#), [Box](#), etc. If you need to access an earlier

version of a file visit their website to find out how to restore it. (Note: Previous versions are usually only saved for 30 days so don't delay if you need to restore a previous version from their website.) Unfortunately, *Apple's iCloud Drive* does not appear to have the "restore previous version" feature for all documents, only *iWork* documents.

- Keep your computer up-to-date. *Microsoft* and *Apple* fix security problems as soon as they find out about them. Always do updates when offered.
 - **Windows:** Run Windows Update in your Maintenance folder on your Desktop. Follow the onscreen instructions.
 - **Mac:** Click the Apple icon top left, click App Store, click Updates top right, click Update or Update All (if more than one).



More information

[Wired: 4 Ways to Protect Against the Very Real Threat of Ransomware](#)

[How does Carbonite protect my files from ransomware?](#)

[iDrive Rewind](#)

[Apple - Restore previous versions of iWork documents](#)

Apple - [iCloud Drive](#) and [iCloud Drive FAQ](#)

[PC World - 3 ways to recover an older version of an existing file](#)

[How-To Geek - How to Restore Previous Versions of a File on Any Operating System](#)

Newsletter Archives

[Click here](#) to read some of my past newsletters.

Some of my clients do not realize that my business has expanded to all mobile devices. In fact, any consumer electronic product that you can purchase I can help you with. So if you would like help setting up or syncing your new smartphone or tablet or connecting your new WiFi TV to the Internet, just let me know.

Claude Kerno

Computer & Consumer Electronics Consultant

719.650.9916

claude@kerno.biz - www.kerno.biz