

# Cyber threat startup Cygilant hit by ransomware

By Zack Whittaker

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Cygilant, a threat detection cybersecurity company, has confirmed a ransomware attack.

Christina Lattuca, Cygilant's chief financial officer, said in a statement that the company was "aware of a ransomware attack impacting a portion of Cygilant's technology environment."

"Our Cyber Defense and Response Center team took immediate and decisive action to stop the progression of the attack. We are working closely with third-party forensic investigators and law enforcement to understand the full nature and impact of the attack. Cygilant is committed to the ongoing security of our network and to continuously strengthening all aspects of our security program," the statement said.

Cygilant is believed to be the latest victim of NetWalker, a ransomware-as-a-service group, which lets threat groups rent access to its infrastructure to launch their own attacks, according to Brett Callow, a ransomware expert and threat analyst at security firm Emsisoft.

The file-encrypting malware itself not only scrambles a victim's files but also exfiltrates the data to the hacker's servers. The hackers typically threaten to publish the victim's files if the ransom isn't paid.

A site on the dark web associated with the NetWalker ransomware group posted screenshots of internal network files and directories believed to be associated with Cygilant.

Cygilant did not say if it paid the ransom. But at the time of writing, the dark web listing with Cygilant's data had disappeared.

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"Groups permanently delist companies when they've paid or, in some cases, temporarily delist them once they've agreed to come to the negotiating table," said Callow. "NetWalker has temporarily delisted pending negotiations in at least one other case."

[As ransomware gets craftier, companies must start thinking creatively.](#)

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Zack Whittaker is the security editor at TechCrunch. He also authors the weekly cybersecurity newsletter, [this week in security](#).

He can be reached via encrypted message at zackwhittaker.1337 on Signal. You can also contact him by email, or to verify outreach, at [zack.whittaker@techcrunch.com](mailto:zack.whittaker@techcrunch.com).

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