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Press Report

The case Fürstentfeldbruck

Threat level remains high in the health care sector

The clinic Fürstentfeldbruck has become the victim of a hacker attack. According to media reports, the clinic could not function normally for more than a week, after the computer virus paralyzed the IT-system. Other clinics had to take over.

The malware attack against the Bavarian clinic is by far no isolated case – especially in the last three years similar cases have become more frequent, for example in wake of the ransomware-wave “WannaCry”. How many health institutions have become victims of cybercriminals is hard to quantify, because the reporting obligation for IT-security incidents only applies to the largest clinics. Those only make up 10% of all institutions. A small inquiry commissioned by the SPD in the Hessian Landtag gives some indications: of the 40 answers received from the hospitals, one in four stated to have recorded at least one cyber-incident in the last two years. The by far more large-scale study “Krankenhausstudie 2017” by the consultancy Roland Berger showed that already 64% of 500 questioned hospitals had become victims of hacker-attacks.

“Those responsible in the healthcare-sector have to adapt their level of protection according to the sensitivity of the data and must not underestimate the danger, so as not to be affected themselves” says Arved Graf von Stackelberg, CSO at Dracoon. It is important to combine security and efficiency and by no means neglect one aspect for the other. Especially within the healthcare sector a fast and secure transmission and a continuous availability of data is of key importance. It is crucial for clinics to exchange big data quantities without time losses and to quickly make examination results accessible. “Nevertheless, it is an absolute must that this- mostly personalized data – is protected on the highest security level so that no information ends up in the hands of unauthorized third parties and an ideal treatment of the patients can be guaranteed at any time.”

With help of a certified and data protection safety-conform Enterprise-Filesharing-Solution that effectively and safely supports the health workforce with their daily challenges, enterprises in the health care sector are well equipped. Certificates decision-makers should look out for, are for example the norm ISO 27001 or the European Privacy Seal (EuroPriSe). In order to achieve maximum data safety, the data should already be encrypted at the terminal-device. Solutions that provide their encryptions at an open-source also offer a further advantage – this way administrators can convince themselves that the encryption is seamless. Lastly, a storage-ransomware-protection is particularly useful. This way encrypted data can be restored without time-loss through the paper basket as all data is automatically saved, in case of a hacker-attack.

Specialists investigate the computer virus in the Bavarian clinic

The central department Cybercrime Bavaria has begun to investigate a computer virus that paralyzed the clinic Fürstenfeldbruck. It may have been a harmful software that normally spies out bank data, a speaker of the public prosecutor's office Bamberg (part of the central department) suspected on Friday.

The virus paralyzed hundreds of clinic computers, according to the board of the clinic, Alfons Groitl. Beforehand there had been many media reports about the case. IT-specialists from the clinic and external specialist cleared up all clinic servers and computers, Groitl explained. In the following days all devices should function normally again. Some computers were already back in the network on Friday.

It was said that patients were at no point in danger. Life-threatening cases, for example, were still treated, the head of the clinic emphasized. Other patients were brought to hospitals in Munich, Dachau, Starnberg and Landsberg am Lech. Due to the virus the clinic was restricted in accepting new patients.

(translated, original dpa)