



**CITY OF EUREKA**

EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

604 C Street

Eureka, California 95501-0341

(707) 441-4060

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

604 C Street

Eureka, CA 95501

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**Date:** 3/20/13

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject: EPD Issues Public Service Advisory Concerning Ransomware Computer Virus Scam**

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On 3/20/13, the Eureka Police Department received a report of a computer-related scam now affecting some local residents. Victims report a pop-up message will appear on their personal computer. The message is purportedly from the “**Department of Homeland Security National Cyber Security Division.**” The message, which appears to be a form of malware/virus known as “ransomware,” states: “*The work of your computer has been suspended on the grounds of the violation of the law of the United States of America.*” It further declares, “*This computer has been blocked.*”

The message remains locked in the front of one’s screen and the user is unable to close it or access other programs. It essentially freezes the computer. The message instructs the user that to “unlock” the computer they are “*obliged to pay a fine of \$300.00.*” It further states they must pay this fine through “MoneyPak” within 48 hours (Green Dot MoneyPak is available through Walmart, Kmart, Rite Aid and other major retailers). If the fine has not been paid, it threatens the user will become the subject of criminal prosecution without the right to pay the fine. The warning asserts once you pay the “fine” your computer will be unblocked. The “fine” is paid by entering your \$300.00 MoneyPak code into a box on the pop-up warning screen and clicking ok.



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The warning screen is very convincing with logos from Homeland Security as well as major retailers such as Walmart. Walmart and the other retailers are not associated with this scam. Alternate versions of this same scam may use the FBI's logo

Anyone receiving this message should not enter a MoneyPak code or any other payment method into the screen. Users should file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. The IC3 is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C).

Additional information concerning this scam may be found at the following internet links.

<http://corporate.walmart.com/privacy-security/fraud-alerts/green-dot-moneypak-scam>

<http://www.ic3.gov/media/2012/121130.aspx>

**See Screen Shot Below**



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**THIS COMPUTER HAS BEEN BLOCKED**

Department of Homeland Security  
National Cyber Security Division

Your ID: 68-107-810    IP: 02259431    Account Manager: Office

**THIS COMPUTER HAS BEEN BLOCKED**

THE WORK OF YOUR COMPUTER HAS BEEN SUSPENDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE VIOLATION OF THE LAW OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

- Article 184. Pornography involving children.** Imprisonment for the term of up to 10-15 years (The use or distribution of pornographic material)
- Article 171. Copyright.** Imprisonment for the term of up to 2-5 years (The use or sharing of copyrighted files)
- Article 113. The use of unlicensed software.** Imprisonment for the term of up to 2 years (The use of unlicensed software)

*The first violation may not entail the criminal liability if the payment of the fine would be succeeded in connection with the law of loyalty to the people, on 1 March 2013, if repeated violations occur, the prosecution is inevitable.*

**To unlock the computer you are obliged to pay a fine of \$300.**

**You must pay the fine through MoneyPak.**

You have **48 hours** to pay the fine. If the fine has not been paid, you will become the subject of criminal prosecution without the right to pay the fine. The Department for the Fight Against Cyberactivity will confiscate your computer and take you to court.

MoneyPak Code:

After paying the fine your computer will be unlocked. (In the case of several violations you will become the subject of criminal prosecution without the right to pay the fine)

An attempt to unlock the computer by yourself will lead to the full formatting of the operating system. All the files, videos, photos, documents on your computer will be deleted.

**How to pay the fine using MoneyPak?**

1. Take your cash to one of these retail locations:  
Walmart, Target, CVS/pharmacy, etc.
2. Pick up a MoneyPak and purchase it with cash at the register.
3. Enter \$300 MoneyPak code and press OK.

For identifying cyber-crime and a better Cyber Law Enforcement, the treaty to develop an anti-virus software was signed on March 1, 2013.

Logos of various law enforcement agencies and partners are displayed at the bottom.

**AOC**