

## CASE STUDY

# STOPPING RANSOMWARE AT THE ENDPOINT



### ORGANIZATION:

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

### CHALLENGE:

The healthcare industry as a whole is a lucrative target for attackers. This is because due to the sensitivity of information contained within their networks, and due to the potential for life threatening situations should critical systems impacting patient care get hacked and go down – attackers assume there is an increased likelihood that healthcare organizations will pay ransom to release their data.

Jim Hill is Vice President and CTO at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) – a healthcare organization dealing with the personal information of thousands of patients on a daily basis. Responsible for, among other things, securing the organization’s desktops and network, Hill knew the stakes were high. He and his colleagues were especially concerned about the threat of ransomware, particularly following global attacks such as WannaCry and Petya/NotPetya.

Realizing that ransomware was a growing threat, Hill began looking for a more robust solution to protecting their endpoints from breach. The endpoint protection solution they were using was primarily signature-based, and they were not confident in its ability to completely detect and stop unknown threats. Said Hill, “though they added some heuristic capabilities, it was not really at the level we were looking for.”

### KEY BENEFITS



REAL-TIME ALERTS FROM THE ENDPOINT



INCREASED VISIBILITY THROUGHOUT THE ORGANIZATION



RAPID DEPLOYMENT AND EASE OF USE

## SOLUTION:

### **Cynet Real-Time Detection to Back a Signature-Based Solution**

Hill and his team started out by testing the Cynet 360 platform on a small group of desktops. It quickly became evident that the Cynet 360 platform's heuristic capabilities would give EBNHC's security IT team the added real-time visibility into the desktop that they had been lacking. "Cynet picked up on things on the endpoint that we weren't seeing before, and we were able to verify them with firewall logs," Hill said. He added that it was Cynet's ability to quickly hone in on ransomware that essentially made the decision for them.

Liking what they saw, EBNHC decided to use the Cynet 360 platform together with their original signature-based endpoint protection solution, and they grew the deployment over time to cover all of the organization's approximately 1,200 endpoints, as well as their servers.



## THE RESULTS

With Cynet, overseeing the organizational security situation became less complicated for the EBNHC team. "One of the main things we saw during the POC was that Cynet was very easy to manage, and easy to roll out to the desktops," Hill said.

But more importantly, after implementing Cynet, EBNHC gained a new vantage point of visibility within the organization. "We now get alerts from the endpoints, which we did not have before using Cynet," said Hill.

The EBNHC security IT team then sends those real-time alerts to the network manager, who can investigate and decide on a plan of action - including remediation, and managing those alerts from within the Cynet platform.

And while the original motivation for moving over to Cynet was the growing threat of ransomware, Hill and his team also grapple with other threats, such as phishing. They have been utilizing the Cynet 360 platform to keep employees off of phishing sites. "Every time we get better, the phishing gets better," he wryly noted, saying that the ability of Cynet to identify phishing websites was "a big help."

**"RANSOMWARE IS THE THING EVERYONE IS CONCERNED ABOUT AND HAVING THE ABILITY TO DETECT IT QUICKLY IS THE MAIN THING WE ARE HAPPY ABOUT."**

*Jim Hill, Vice President & CTO, EBNHC*

### **About the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC)**

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) has been a vital part of the community for more than 45 years. From the beginning, our services and development have been defined by the needs of East Boston and the communities we serve. Our mission is to provide easily accessible, affordable, appropriate, high-quality, personalized, coordinated primary care, for all who live and work in East Boston and the surrounding communities.

### **About Cynet**

Cynet is a pioneer and leader in advanced threat detection and response. Cynet simplifies security by providing a scalable, easily deployable protection platform that delivers prevention, precise findings and automated response to advanced threats with near zero false positives, shortening the time from detection to resolution and limiting damage to an organization. To learn more visit: [www.cynet.com](http://www.cynet.com)

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