Hackers Shut Down Boston Legal System for Weeks, Seeking Payment in Bitcoin

A cyberattack on the agency overseeing Boston public defenders has caused a weekslong slowdown, disabling e-mail systems, delaying some hearings, and hanging up payments for the private attorneys who represent clients, **reports** *The Boston Globe*.

"The Committee for Public Counsel Services has been cleaning up for two weeks after a ransomware attack locked up its servers, with the culprits demanding that a ransom be paid in bitcoin," writes the *Globe*'s Andy Rosen. "The agency refused to pay, because it has backup files it can use to restore the system."

A similar attack hit the Jackson County, Georgia, government internal network recently, forcing most of the systems offline, according to **ZDNet**. In that case, the county paid $400,000 to cyber-criminals week to get rid of the ransomware infection and regain access to its IT systems.

Read the *Globe* article.