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community messaging



Cyber criminals send victims their own passwords in extortion scam  
Cyber criminals are attempting to blackmail unsuspecting victims by claiming to have used the victims' password to install spying malware on the victims' computer. The criminals claim they've recorded videos of the victim watching adult material by activating their webcam when they visit these websites.

What makes this scam so convincing is that the email usually includes a genuine password the victim has used for one of their online accounts. We believe criminals obtain the passwords from data breaches.

What to do if you get one of these emails?

Don't reply to the email, or be pressured into paying. We advise that you do not pay criminals. Try flagging the email as spam/junk if you receive it multiple times. Perform a password reset as soon as possible on any accounts where you've used the password mentioned in the email. Always use a strong, separate password for important accounts, such as your email. Where available, enable two-factor authentication. Always install the latest software and app updates. Install, or enable, anti-virus software on your laptops and computers and keep it updated.

You can see this for yourself by entering your email address into [www.havebeenpwned.com](http://www.havebeenpwned.com). That is why it is very important for you to change your passwords. We would recommend using password manager software such as LastPass, Dashlane or one of the many other legitimate versions and also enabling two factor authentication. Advice on these and other security tips can be found on [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org).

If you receive one of these emails, report it to Action Fraud's phishing reporting tool. If you have received one of these emails and paid the ransom, report it to Action Fraud.

Thank you for subscribing to our alerts, to see a list of previously sent messages please visit [North Yorkshire Community Messaging](#).

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To update your profile including unsubscription, [click here](#) and sign into your profile to change your preferences.

