



Issued 3/30/17

Apple Devices Attacked with Fake Police Ransomware Scam

The Apple Inc issued a quick iPhone software update to iOS (10.3) yesterday when its customers reported a series of **ransomware** attacks targeting Safari browser.

It all started last month when iPhone users were targeted with a ransomware note accusing them of watching x-rated and pirated content. Furthermore, the cyber criminals claimed that it will be impossible to remove the ransomware until a sum of USD 124 (Euro 115) in the form of iTunes gift card is sent to a particular phone number.

The ransomware note was phony since clearing Safari browser's cache would allow users to access the browser again. The crooks were taking advantage of JavaScript in order to trick users into believing that their browser has been compromised due to illegal activities.

The researchers at IT security firm Lookout wrote in their blog post that "the attack doesn't actually encrypt any data and hold it ransom. Its purpose is to scare the victim into paying to unlock the browser before he realizes he doesn't have to pay the ransom to recover data or access the browser." Simply put, the cyber criminals were abusing Safari browsers to scare unsuspecting users into pay money, however, Apple took the treat seriously and issued the update before these elements could further abuse the browser settings.