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Ashley Madison Blackmail Roars Back to Life

A group with a Ukrainian top level domain is sending out blackmail threats, using Ashley Madison information. They sent one to me, so here's what to expect: "On May 1 2017 we are launching our new site -- Cheaters Gallery - exposing those who cheat and destroy families. We will launch the site with a big email to all the friends and family of cheaters taken from Facebook, LinkedIn and other social sites. This will include you if do not pay to opting out." Then they quoted from my AM profile.

Give them points for the human touch. The price for "opting out"? About \$500 at today's bitcoin value. Of course, they're lying. You can't opt out. The AM data is out on the dark web, accessible by criminals, forever. So even if you pay these guys off, they can come back in a couple of months, posing as a different group -- if they even bother -- and hit you up again. The infinite and perfect replicability of digital data guarantees that my AM profile -- and yours -- will be on the web forever. Wouldn't surprise me if they sold lists of people foolish enough to pay up to other groups.

Once you pay you've told them you're vulnerable to blackmail forever. Large-scale, web-based blackmail is like an infectious disease. We need to rely upon, and encourage herd immunity, at least until we get an effective internet police force. It takes work to threaten hundreds of thousands of people. If the payback is too low, then the criminals will look for something more profitable to do. If most people don't comply -- are "immunized"

against blackmail -- the criminals will leave the business. The blackmailers claim they are targeting people who destroy families by cheating.