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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ITC Data Corp.'s Technology Thwarts Cryptojacking

NEWBURGH — July 11, 2018 – ITC Data Corp., a leading managed technology services provider, is helping small to mid-sized businesses (SMBs) to prevent cryptojacking attacks from damaging their organizations. Cryptojacking attacks, are derived from the widely popular cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin and Ethereum, and occurs when a corporate server is hijacked in order to facilitate cryptocurrency transactions by leveraging the inherent power of high-performance servers. As cryptocurrencies rely on an enormous amount of server power in order to facilitate transactions, many of the corporate servers that power small to mid-sized businesses have become an obvious target of cryptojacking attacks, as they are simply the most efficient vehicle for cryptojackers to exploit. ITC Data Corp. is currently protecting SMBs from this threat.

“Businesses that are under attack are often unaware of this threat because these attacks are specifically designed to be minimally intrusive and hard to trace,” stated Keith Studt, President at ITC Data Corp.. “Typically, cyber criminals set up their malware to run quietly in the background during daytime hours, only to extract maximum power during off-hours. It’s one of the telltale signs, yet this is rarely monitored by organizations that aren’t working with a reputable managed technology services provider. The result is that most businesses are flying blind and unaware

that their security has been compromised, which doesn't seem very dangerous on the surface. However, this leaves many cryptocurrency hackers with access to very sensitive points within an organization that can be taken advantage of later."

Most attacks take place when businesses are most vulnerable; after-hours and during migration to cloud-based solutions. During off-hours, cryptocurrency mining software can be installed quickly and without detection, creating a pivot-point where hackers can later install even more malware. Another vulnerable moment is when businesses are migrating their network to the cloud. The vulnerability here is because of the complexity and level of detailed attention required to successfully navigate these kinds of infrastructure transitions. Where most business owners simply add technology piece-by-piece, this fails to address the gaps in the network that arise glomming one solution onto another. Networks can quickly become messy and this is how organizations get exposed to hackers. In the case, of cryptojacking, it's no different.

"Business owners can protect themselves by taking the following actions, commented Mr. Studt. "As a first step, they need to diagnose their network and segment the utilization of their data. By doing this, business owners or CTOs can see which devices, servers, and endpoints are performing optimally and which are underperforming. Underperforming servers can provide a hint that the organization may have been cryptojacked. Another action they can take is to make sure that they aren't vulnerable to exploit kits, which are tools hackers use to infiltrate networks via common business software. Lastly, businesses can direct their attention to systems that expose the network, like VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) or other cloud-based technology. While there are many more steps to take, these are very effective first steps to protect any organization from cryptojacking."

ABOUT ITC DATA CORP.

Founded in 2003 and based upon the service principles of Independent Telecommunications Corporation {ITC}, ITC Data Corp. provides commercial data networking service in the Hudson Valley. ITC Data Corp recognizes the critical need

for an IT company that combines leading edge technology with top quality service and customer support.

ITC Data Corp's professional team is dedicated to the highest levels of customer support and personal service. Calls made to the service and sales departments are answered by knowledgeable and courteous staff. Through innovative technology and expertise ITC Data Corp can minimize customer risk from failures & data loss and maximize employee productivity.

Whether you require support to your existing staff or complete outsourcing of your I.T. Department, ITC Data Corp. is positioned to assist you. Data support is our business. May we help you?

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