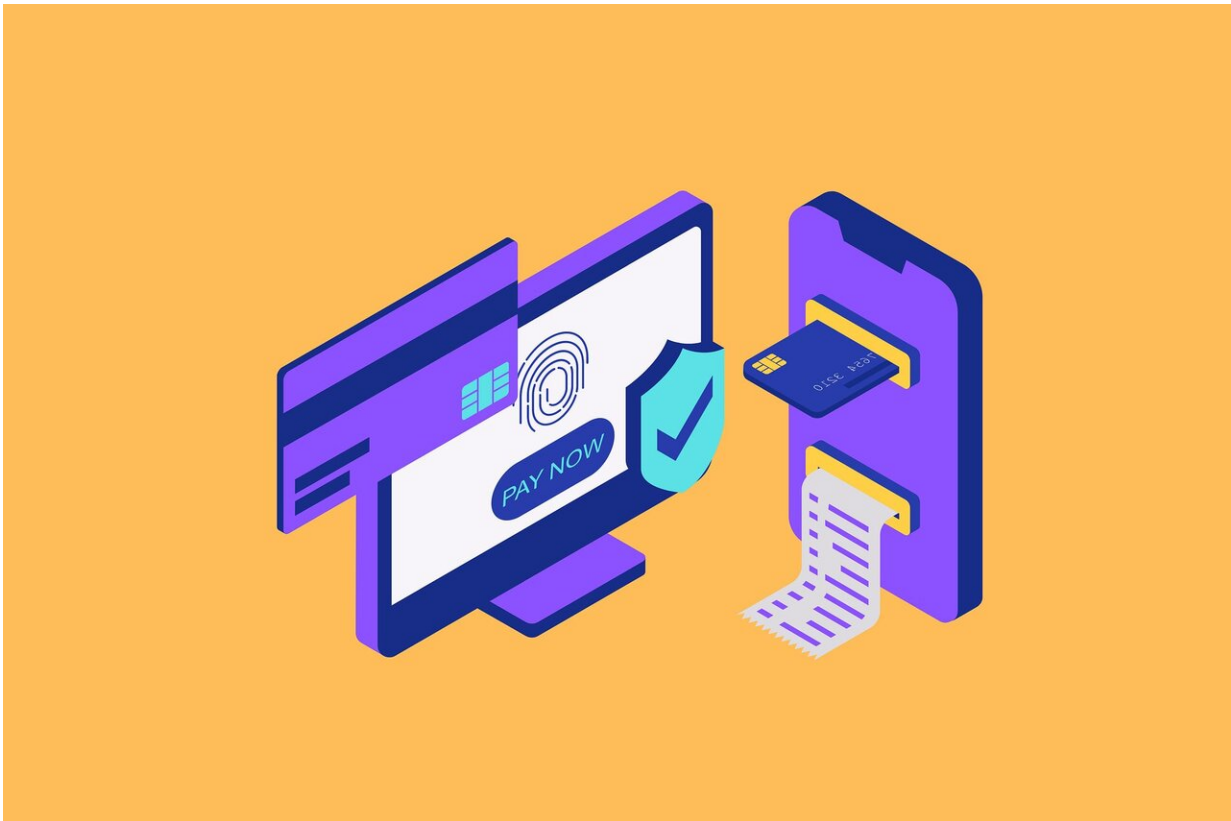


Israeli hospital targeted in ransomware attack

October 13 2021



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

An Israeli hospital was targeted Wednesday by a ransomware attack, officials said, with the state's cyber directorate calling it the first such attack on a hospital in the country.

The Hillel Yaffe Medical Center is "currently using alternative systems to treat its patients", it said in a statement, describing the attack as "totally unexpected".

"Medical treatment is continuing as usual, aside from non-urgent elective procedures," Hillel Yaffe said.

Yigal Unna, director of Israel's National Cyber Directorate, called it a "major" attack.

"We're in the middle of trying to solve it, it does not look very good," he said at a virtual summit on ransomware attacks hosted by the US National Security Council.

According to Unna, it was "the first time in Israel" that a ransomware cyber attack targeted a hospital, although medical centres in other countries have experienced similar attacks.

His agency said that "the [health ministry](#) has updated hospitals as a [preventive measure](#)".

One in every five businesses in Israel has been targeted in a cyber attack, according to data presented by Unna in July, with the attacks causing damage to a fifth of the establishments attacked.

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