

## Devastating ransomware attack shuts down LA County courts

July 23 2024, by Summer Lin, Los Angeles Times



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The Los Angeles County Superior Court, the biggest trial court in the country, remained closed July 22 as it sought to recover from a ransomware attack on its systems, officials said.

The attack was detected on July 19 and doesn't appear to be related to



the CrowdStrike software update that paralyzed Windows computers around the world and affected governments, airlines and other agencies last week, court officials said in a Sunday news release.

This closure extended to all 36 courthouses in the county, and officials did not expect it to last beyond Monday.

"While the Court continues to move swiftly towards a restoration and recovery phase, many <u>critical systems</u> remain offline as of Sunday evening," presiding Judge Samantha Jessner said in the release. "One additional day will enable the court's team of <u>experts</u> to focus exclusively on bringing our systems back online so that the Court can resume operations as expeditiously, smoothly and safely as possible."

The affected court systems span the My Jury Duty Portal and the court's website, as well as the court's case management systems, according to the release.

A team of consultants, vendors and law enforcement has been trying to get the systems working again, but some were still inaccessible as of Sunday, officials said.

Court officials didn't immediately respond Monday to questions about how the attackers got control of the systems and whether the county paid a ransom. They also didn't respond to questions about what <u>confidential</u> <u>information</u>, if any, was exposed or whether any data was lost.

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Citation: Devastating ransomware attack shuts down LA County courts (2024, July 23) retrieved 23 July 2024 from <a href="https://techxplore.com/news/2024-07-devastating-ransomware-la-county-courts.html">https://techxplore.com/news/2024-07-devastating-ransomware-la-county-courts.html</a>



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