

## **Ransomware: Eco System**

Donald Edward Hunt, David Maimon and Tamar Berenblum

The prevalence of ransomware has been significantly increased during the last 10 years. However, although policy interest and empirical research on ransomware infections have both increased substantially, very little of this attention has been focused on identifying potential comprehensive human-based interventions within the ecology of ransomware markets that may disrupt the progression of a ransomware campaign. Encouraging an evidence-based approach for developing effective disruptive interventions of ransomware campaigns, we first identify the key players within the ransomware ecology and highlight the key junctures these actors create. We then reflect upon the usefulness and practicality of deploying Situational Crime Prevention techniques in key junctures within the ransomware ecosystem. We follow by proposing a research agenda aimed at assessing the effectiveness of each of the suggested interventions in disrupting the development and progression of ransomware campaigns and move that the adoption of such agenda could guide the creation of evidence-based cybersecurity policies.