

CHECKLIST

Ransomware first-hour and prevention checklist

From our guide: Ransomware in the UAE in 2026: how attacks get in and what to do in the first hour. Read the full guide, with the reasoning and official sources, at www.missanglobal.com/resources/ransomware-uae-2026/

Organisation

Completed by

Date

The first hour

- ☐ Isolate affected machines (cable out, Wi-Fi off, or at the switch). Do not power off unless you cannot isolate.
- ☐ Disconnect backup servers and storage; change their admin passwords from a clean device.
- ☐ Coordinate by phone or a messaging group outside company systems.
- ☐ Disable VPN and remote access accounts; reset admin and email passwords from a clean machine.
- ☐ Call your IT provider or incident responder, and your cyber insurer.
- ☐ Report to the UAE Cyber Security Council, the police and your sector regulator if you have one.
- ☐ Write down times, machines, who did what; photograph the ransom note.

Prevention

- ☐ MFA on every email account, VPN, remote access and admin account.
- ☐ Legacy sign-in methods blocked in Microsoft 365.
- ☐ Firewall, VPN and internet-facing devices patched within days of a critical fix; replaced when out of support.
- ☐ No remote desktop open to the internet, confirmed by an external scan.
- ☐ EDR on every laptop and server, with someone acting on alerts.
- ☐ Separate admin accounts used only for admin work.

- ☐ One offline or immutable backup with separate credentials, restored in a test this year.
- ☐ Phishing awareness training and a simple way to report suspicious email.
- ☐ One-page incident plan with phone numbers on paper, rehearsed once a year.

Want a second pair of eyes on this?

Our engineers can walk through this checklist with you and tell you which gaps to close first. Call **+971 6 562 6006** or write to us at www.missanglobal.com/contact-missan/. We reply within one business day.

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General information for planning, not legal or tax advice. Confirm the current position with the official sources linked in the guide.