

Maine police pay ransom to hackers to get files back

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Some Maine police agencies say they have had no other choice than to pay a ransom to computer hackers to get their police records back.

Computers at the Lincoln County sheriff's office were recently infiltrated by a type of virus called ransomware. It locked up the system and held police records hostage.

Sheriff Todd Brackett told WCSH-TV that after several attempts to retrieve the records, his agency paid a ransom of about \$300 to the creator of the [virus](#) to get their files back.

Brackett says the FBI helped track the payment to a Swiss bank account but efforts to identify the [hackers](#) got no further.

Also in Maine, Houlton Police Department computers were held hostage and the [police chief](#) says the department ended up paying a ransom.

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