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Louisiana state government targeted in cyber attack, officials say

By David Jacobs
The Center Square

A cyberattack caused Louisiana government websites and email systems to shut down Monday, state officials said.

The service interruption was caused by the state Office of Technology Services' "aggressive response" to prevent additional infection of state services and not the attack itself, Gov. John Bel Edwards' office says. Though some services are back up and running, full restoration might take several days.

Louisiana State Police and federal agencies are investigating. The OTS says the "ransomware" attack is similar to attacks that targeted school districts and other government entities this summer. There is no anticipated data loss and the state did not pay a ransom, the governor's office says.

"Ransomware" is

software designed to deny legitimate users' access to a computer system or data until a ransom is paid. A system often is infected when a user unwittingly opens a "phishing" email or visits an infected website. Once infected, the thieves hold the user's data hostage until a ransom is paid, usually in digital currency like BitCoin.

The LSU-affiliated Stephenson National Center for Security Research, which was part of the response effort to this summer's ransomware attacks, said the school systems had suffered "the most pervasive ransomware attacks in the state's history," in which "digital thieves successfully injected malware" into their networks.

"Ransomware is not new," said Jeff Moulton, the center's director, in July. "It's growing in use at the state and local levels because the attackers know



government agencies, especially at the lower

levels, are likely to pay." Government agen-

cies in Texas, Florida, Georgia and elsewhere

also have been targeted.

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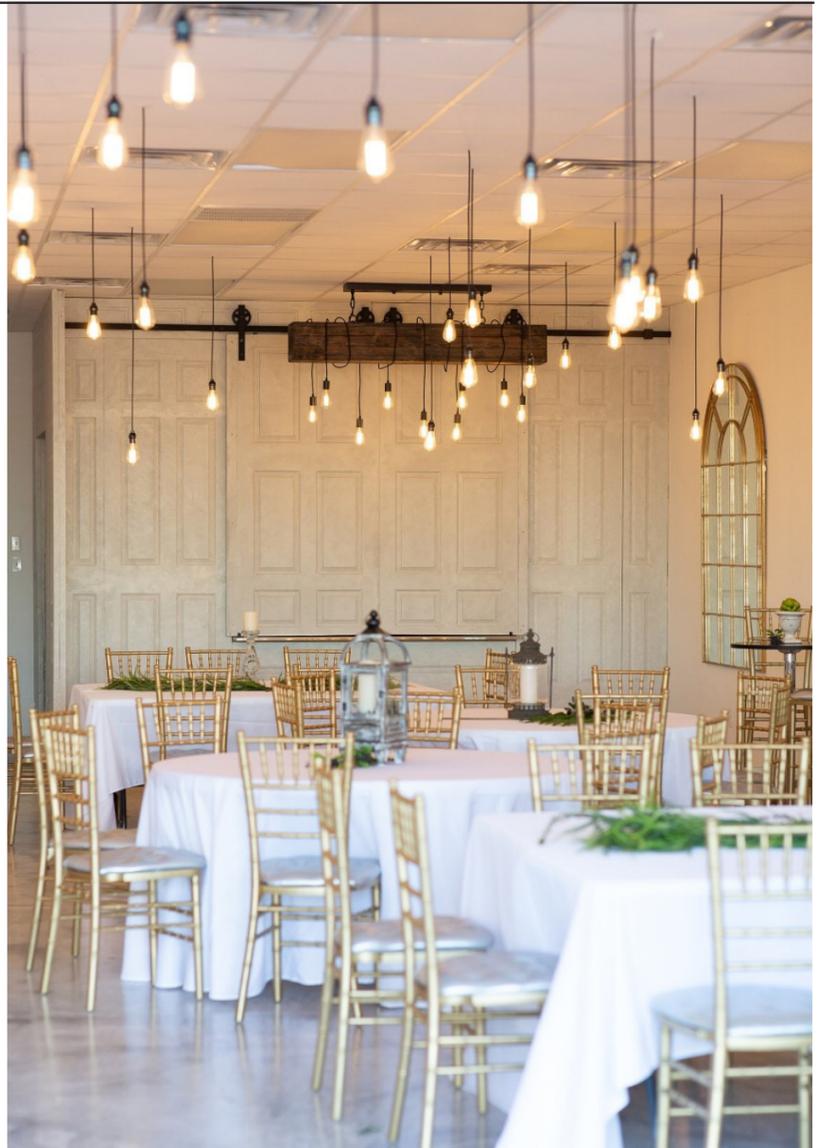
projector with projector screen are also available for a nominal fee.

Located at The Village of Huns Grove, in the quaint city of Port Allen, just a few miles from the Mississippi River, the enchanting space is available weekdays, evenings, and weekends. MEET values community family-oriented events, as well as companies that provide jobs in our community and want them to have a resource for a comfortable meeting space.

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side of the Mississippi that gives its community more choices. This space also provides an elegant and intimate environment for small events.

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LSU Department of Accounting Kicks Off 2020 with Tax Seminar

Baton Rouge - "Registration is open now for the 2020 LSU Tax Seminar to be held Jan. 9-10, at the Business Education Complex at LSU. This seminar is sponsored by the Department of Accounting in the E. J. Ourso College of Business.

The two-day event is designed for tax practitioners, lawyers, accountants, auditors and enrolled agents. Each day is worth eight CPE hours or 16 hours for both days. The Department of Accounting has applied for the seminar to be approved for 13.7

CLE tax specialization hours for both days.

Registration closes Jan. 3, 2020, unless event capacity is reached before that time. The registration fee is \$100 per day (\$200 for both days) and can be paid online by credit card or by mailing a check. To pay online, visit the seminar page. To pay by check, make it payable to the LSU Department of Accounting and mail to:

LSU Department of Accounting, 2800 Business Education Complex, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

For any questions about payment, contact the department at 225-578-6202 or accounting@lsu.edu.

The keynote speaker for the event is James Hasselback, an adjunct faculty member at LSU. He retired from Florida State University after 27 years and previously taught at the University of Florida, Texas A&M University, and Eastern Michigan University. A member of the American Accounting Association and the American Taxation Association, he has published more than 165 papers in pro-

fessional and academic journals, including The Accounting Review, The Tax Adviser, Financial Management, Journal of Real Estate Taxation and the American Business Law Journal.

Attendees of the Thursday session build on the events of the last year. Topics include recent tax bills, filing requirements and exemptions, gross income - inclusions and exclusions, gains and losses, retirement plans and distributions, adjustments to income, small business developments, and more.

The second day is a continuation of the update of current federal tax developments affecting tax returns for the coming tax season. This seminar provides tax practitioners with an update of virtual currency, evaluation of authorities, preparer penalties, capitalized carrying costs, section 1202, and qualified opportunity zone rules.

About the Department of Accounting
The Department of Accounting at LSU's E. J. Ourso College of Business strives for excellence in teaching,

research and service to the accounting profession. With a mission of producing graduates at all levels who excel in their pursuits, the department offers undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare students for careers in various fields, including industry, auditing, finance, government and academia. For more information, visit lsu.edu/business/accounting, call 225-578-6202, or email accounting@lsu.edu.