MARKSMAN SECURITY

Safety Share

Date Issued: May 29, 2026

Type of Incident: Trespassing / Data Theft

Industry: Commercial/Office Properties

Threat Summary

Description

A group of criminals is now combining online hacking efforts with in-person breach attempts to steal valuable data from large law firms. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) notes that the group will sometimes send a visitor to attorneys' offices posing as information technology (IT) to gain physical access to computer systems. This is a real-time threat – an arrest was made at a Marksman Titan Security Client site in Chicago this month. The link below provides an overview of the threat.

https://cyberscoop.com/fbi-warning-silent-ransom-group-law-firms/

General Background

Any building with a law firm as a tenant is a potential target. The criminal group may make outreach via email or phone to the law office claiming to be IT support and giving an excuse to grant access. The group will also utilize "social engineering" to attempt access – psychological manipulation techniques used by attackers to trick people into revealing confidential information or performing actions that compromise security. The goal is to be granted access to a tenant space where a flashdrive or similar device can be directly plugged into a computer to download mass amounts of data. The group then uses extortion to gain a ransom payment by threatening to release sensitive information to regulators or to the public.

Awareness Is Vital

Security personnel are absolutely vital to minimizing or mitigating this potential threat to our tenants. The incident in Chicago started when a visitor approached the security desk and attempted to gain access to a law-firm tenant space. Security personnel sensed that something was "off," denied access, and made appropriate notifications. Even though the subject left the property, local law enforcement recognized the pattern and contacted the FBI, and an arrest was soon made.

Security leaders should make their teams aware of the threat, and trust their instincts if a visitor seems to be trying to talk his or her way past security to reach a law firm space. Following security post orders, and making prompt notifications, will be vital to preventing unauthorized access. We can be an important deterrent to criminal activity targeting our tenants.

If You Encounter a Suspicious Visitor

It is very important to alert all appropriate parties if a visitor is not meeting our access requirements. Prompt notification can minimize any overall risk – we can verify identities in a firm yet professional manner. Follow your post orders including:

- Be particularly aware of any visitors to legal or law firm tenants
- Be alert for unscheduled or unannounced visitors
- Verify identity of all contractor or vendor employees – especially IT or tech support

When in doubt, make a notification! Support from property management and security management is often only a call away.