How Attackers Determine the Ransom in Ransomware Attacks

BACKGROUND
Ransomware attacks have become more prevalent over the past years [2]. Even though most ransomware attackers are financially motivated [1], the actual financial gains made by attackers are still unclear. This study aims to empirically study the ransom requested by attackers.

METHODS
1. 371 ransomware attacks between 2019 and 2021 reported to the Dutch Police were collected. 172 attacks (46 %) reported ransom requested by attackers.
2. For each observation, attacker, victim characteristics and context (time) was measured.

RESULTS
• If attackers put in more effort, such as extra activities additional to the encryption, they will ask a larger ransom, as expected.
• There is no increasing trend of requested ransom over the years, in contrast with expectations
• High revenue of victims should lead to larger requested ransom, as expected
• In contrast with previous findings does the requested ransom not vary over the different seasons

LITERATURE