JUNE 2024

Your monthly newsletter, written for humans not geeks

TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

Out of sight, out of mind?

Having your employees work from home or their local coffee shop is the norm now. And while there are loads of benefits to this new attitude to work, it's easy to overlook a crucial aspect of keeping operations secure: The home set-ups of remote employees.

Here's the thing – neglecting remote security can lead to some serious headaches down the line. And you already have enough business headaches, right?

Imagine this: Your employee's laptop, which holds loads of sensitive company data, gets breached because their home Wi-Fi network wasn't properly secured.

Or worse, a malware infection spreads from their kid's device to their work laptop, putting your entire network at risk. That's scary.

A little vigilance and some regular checks can prevent these risks and keep your business and its data much safer.

So, let's talk about devices. Encourage your remote workers to treat their work devices like Fort Knox. That means regular updates and patches, robust protective software, and strong, unique passwords (password managers are your best friend for this). Remind them to avoid risky behaviors like downloading software from unofficial sources or clicking on suspicious links.

Next, address home networks. A weak Wi-Fi password is asking for trouble. Encourage your employees to set a strong password for their home network (again, a password manager can remove the hassle of this). And while they're at it, remind them to enable encryption and hide their network's SSID (Service Set Identifier) to add an extra layer of security.

And it's not just about devices and networks – physical security matters too. Use biometrics to protect logins. Remind your team to keep their work devices secure when they're not in use, whether that means locking them away in a drawer or simply keeping them out of sight from prying eyes. And if they're working from a shared space like a coffee shop, remind them to be cautious of public Wi-Fi and to keep an eye on their belongings.

Regular checks are key to staying on top of security. Schedule routine audits of remote set-ups to ensure everything gets a thumbs up. This could include checking for software updates, reviewing network configurations, and providing refresher training on best security practices.

Want a hand with that?
We can help – get in touch.

DID YOU KNOW...

Microsoft has a new email send limit?

Microsoft Exchange is cracking down on spam. Hooray! But if your business sends bulk emails, it might affect you.

From January next year, Microsoft will allow **no more than 2,000 external recipients of bulk emails.** It's to prevent people abusing the service, which wasn't designed for bulk mailing.

Think about recovery **BEFORE** the attack strikes

Let us set the scene. It's an ordinary Wednesday. You're minding your own business, getting things done, and making boss decisions, then BAM... you get hit with a cyber attack.

Cue panic mode.

But here's the thing: These attacks happen more often than you'd think. And guess who the favorite targets are? No, not big multinational companies – SMBs like yours.

And the consequences? We're talking financial losses, data loss, reputation damage, the whole nine yards.

But it doesn't have to be that way. If you have a recovery plan in place you can turn a total nightmare into just "an annoying inconvenience".

So, what should your recovery plan include? Well, first things first, prevention is key. Invest in solid cyber security measures like firewalls, antivirus software, and regular security checkups. And don't forget to educate your team about the importance of good cyber hygiene (things like using strong passwords and not clicking suspicious links) – because human error is often the weakest link.

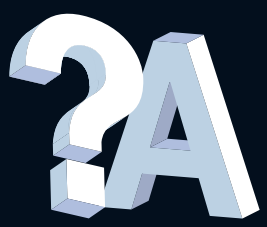
Next, have a game plan for when the inevitable happens. This means having clear protocols in place for how to respond to an attack, who to call, and what steps will minimize the damage.

Let's talk backups. Regularly backing up your data to a secure location can be a real lifesaver in the event of an attack. That way, even if your systems go kaput, you'll still have a copy of your important files to fall back on.

Finally, practice makes perfect! Regularly test your recovery plan to make sure it's up to the job. After all, you don't want to wait until disaster strikes to realize your plan has more holes than a block of Swiss cheese.

Cyber attacks may be scary, but with a solid recovery plan in place, you can rest easy knowing your business is armed and ready. Remember what they say: Fail to prepare, prepare to fail.

If we can help you create your recovery plan, get in touch.



Q: Should I move my business data to the cloud?

A: The cloud brings many benefits such as zero storage limits and automatic backup. But it's important to choose the right provider. We can help – get in touch.

Q: How often should my team have cyber security training?

A: Since threats evolve at a rapid pace, regular training is important. Try to incorporate different methods each month, including simulation training.

Q: Can we use Microsoft Teams as a phone system?

A: Yes. And if you're already using Teams effectively, it could be a sensible solution. Get in touch and we can help you.

Business gadget of the month

Scan reader pen

This handy little pen can do loads. It can read aloud text that you scan with it, translate text written and spoken in different languages, record voice notes, and transcribe speech into text.

Handy if you travel or work with people in other countries. Also a useful tool for people with dyslexia.

$46.99 from Amazon.

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