Think CyberCrime Only Happens To Big-Name Corporations?

Think Again!

The news these days is full of stories about big-name corporations hit by viruses or targeted by hackers. Home Depot, Sony, Kmart... just a few names with big problems. Scary stories!

But you only ever hear about big companies suffering from IT security problems, so a small business owner doesn't need to worry, right?

Wrong.

In fact, small businesses are MORE likely to be targeted by cybercrime. Why? Because cybercriminals expect you won't have the necessary security to stop them - and they're often right! You just don't hear about it because many companies don't report it - or worse, cover it up. **But the truth is that cybercrime is on the rise:**

• Since 2013, there has been a 91% increase in targeted attack campaigns.
• In 2013, over 40% or reported data breaches were from small businesses.
• Experts estimate that unreported numbers are closed to 75% of all targets
• In 2014, over 600 million identities were exposed via data breaches.
• On average, 1 in every 392 email contains phishing attack.
• 38% of mobile users have experienced mobile cybercrime in past 12 months.

You can't afford to take your security for granted! Start protecting your livelihood by following these **4 Cybersecurity Tips for Small Businesses:**

1. Keep Security Simple

Security may not be easy, but it CAN be simple. Too many small business owners think that they can't afford proper IT security, that it will be too big of an operation for a small business to take on. It's just not true.

Start with the basics: Get some good anti-spam and anti-malware software. Don't just settle for the one that came prepackaged with your laptop - do some research, consult with an IT security expert, and find the right software for your size and industry.

TIP: *While you're at it, ask about getting a proper business-grade firewall put in place.*

Taking a bit of time to do research and avoiding just going down to the big box store to pick something off the shelf will save you time and money in the long run.

2. Mobile Security Is A Must

The number one way business networks become infected or compromised today is via **unsecured** mobile devices connecting to the network.

• How many smartphones or tablets do your employees use for work purposes?
• How careful are they when they connect to WIFI networks?
• Are you able to ensure they haven't downloaded something they shouldn't have, or been victimized by a cybercriminal lurking on that public wireless network at the coffee shop?

You need to set up a mobile device management plan that establishes clear rules for using mobile devices for work. Your IT support company can help you set up virtual private networks (VPNs) that will let you use public WIFI without fear, and they can separate personal business data on anyone's device, so you maintain control of devices.

Even better, they can help you track, lock, and even wipe a missing or stolen device, just be on the safe side.

3. Start Encrypting Now

How sensitive is the data you deal with every day? Do you accept credit cards? Do you store private data for your clients that needs to stay confidential? Do you have to comply with regulations like HIPAA, PCI, or Sarbanes Oxley?

Then you NEEd encryption.

If even one device on your network deals with sensitive data, your entire network needs to be set up to ensure that data can't be used against you or your clients. Think of what could happen if a laptop was stolen or a piece of spyware caused a data breach. Think of the damages not only in cost of repairs, but to your **reputation** with your clients.

Compared with the consequences, adopting an encryption policy is a no-brainer, and the right IT company will make encryption so simple you'll never even know it's happening.

4. Integrate Your Security Solution

All these security concerns can start to get complicated, and it can be immensely frustrating to juggle them all at once. A **centralized, integrated security console** can set, deploy, and monitor a single security policy for all your devices and systems.

Ultimately, you need a single product that you plug all your other security solutions into so you don't have to spend extra hours checking each one of your systems - instead, you check one device, let it do the monitoring for you, and you **focus on running your business.**

Don't take your security for granted!

The best way to stay from disaster, natural or manmade, is to have the experts on your side. The team at Alliance Technology Partners will help you find the right security solutions to fit your unique needs and budget, and ensure you get complete protection without you needed to worry about it ever again.

Contact us at 888-891-8885 or sales@alliancetechpartners.com to schedule a security consultation and discover how simple is with the right team on your side.