



Protect your company from a cyberattack
Have a respond & recovery plan and don't forget to keep mitigation a top priority for your employees

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All businesses have confidential information. From personal information of each employee, as well as customers and partners. This information is provided with the assumption of confidentiality and security, so each business must be prepared and have the tools to protect it.

In the age of technology, it is important to know what information must be protected and how, to identify vulnerabilities in the systems, to respond quickly to an attack, and if necessary, to recover the information as soon as possible. There are different threats that businesses must be alert to. From viruses that damage the confidential information; spyware that gathers users information; and/or malware made to gain access to a company's protected systems. In addition to compromising the confidentiality

of a company's information, all of the above examples have the disastrous consequence of damaging the image and reputation of a company.

How to protect your company from these attacks? The National Cybersecurity Alliance recommends the following steps:

Identify what data you actually need to collect and what is the critical confidential information of your business. Ensure that the data is encrypted, know who has access to the data and that it is being tracked by your business.

Protect your network using complex passwords changing them periodically. Avoid using the same passwords on multiple accounts.



Disaster Recovery

Add **Multi Factor Authentication** with administrator logins to delay or stop attacker's efforts to gain administrative access to your systems. Place **firewalls** around critical data to protect your network from unwanted visitors. Always Update your software to reduce the chances of your system being compromised.

To detect possible problems, maintain a continuous monitoring for unusual activity, malware, and/or active attacks. Remove data abnormalities and respond in an appropriate and timely manner. Use **antiviruses** and encryption software on all your devices. Do not open any attachments or click links from unknown sources.

Have a **respond & recovery plan** prepared, making your own encrypted **backups** and

consider how to isolate them to prevent deletion or destruction.

Don't forget to keep mitigation a top priority for your employees. Create a culture of security by implementing a regular schedule of employee training. Cybersecurity in the Workplace is Everyone's Business. Bring up to date employees about new risks and vulnerabilities. Consider blocking employees access to the network if they don't attend.

If your company does not have the capacity or personnel with the necessary knowledge to keep your information secure, **hire professionals** with those skills. Consider hiring independent **forensic investigators** to help you determine the source and scope of any breach. Consider hiring **outside legal counsel** with privacy and data security expertise.



RESOURCES

AmericasSBDC.org/Cybersecurity StopRansomware.gov FTC.gov

<https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/small-businesses/cybersecurity/basics>
https://staysafeonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/NCSA_2018_Week3.pdf

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