10 TIPS
TO PROTECT YOUR SMALL BUSINESS FROM CYBER BREACHES

USTelecom's 2021 Cybersecurity Survey outlines 10 important ways small businesses can protect against cyber breaches.

1 **Conduct Cybersecurity Training:** Regularly train and test staff on best practices and controls.

2 **Review Policies and Procedures:** Annually revisit and update to identify roles, responsibilities, and organizational accountability.

3 **Update System Configurations:** Follow vendor and expert recommendations, including structured protocols to patch vulnerabilities.

4 **Direct Annual Risk Assessments:** Risk assessments put cyber risks in economic terms so mitigation techniques can be calibrated and reviewed by executive management.

5 **Perform Post-breach Assessments:** Post-breach findings offer valuable insights and should be communicated to management and departments.

6 **Evaluate In-house Capabilities:** Annually assess—and consider retaining outsourced, managed service providers—to augment existing cybersecurity staff as needed.

7 **Obtain Cyber Insurance:** Annually review policies to ensure appropriate coverage and alignment with your risk tolerance.

8 **Identify Information Sharing Opportunities:** Participate in formal and informal information sharing opportunities that support your specific needs.

9 **Establish Regular Briefings:** Coordinate briefings for appropriate levels of management and implement a process to ensure feedback.

10 **Dedicate Budget:** Commit at least 10-15% of IT budget to cybersecurity based on business needs and risk tolerance.

There is nothing "small" about protecting your business' cyber security.

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