



## BEWARE THE HACKERS

**The percentage of targeted attacks aimed at small businesses has doubled which is a clear indication that hackers are dedicating more and more resources to what they see as the most vulnerable in the market place.**

A targeted attack represents one that is tailored to a specific business. Cyber criminals tend to customise malware and use data either gathered publicly or stolen from other businesses to create e-mails with malicious file attachments that have a much higher chance of being opened by staff. This particular type of social engineering has proved extremely successful despite all efforts by many businesses to reinforce security.

### SHIFT OF RESOURCES

Hackers are shifting resources toward small businesses as they are often perceived to be the weakest link especially if they are working with larger partners to fulfil major contracts. Cyber criminals are increasingly manipulating them in order to gain information that can be utilised to penetrate the security barricades of the larger partners.

### FOLLOWING SIMPLE PROCEDURES

Small businesses often lack the resources of their larger counterparts when it comes to purchasing expensive technology to fortify their defences. However, they can improve the chances of fending off attacks by following a few simple rules which include ensuring that all software is current and patched. Hackers will go for common vulnerabilities which is exactly why it is important to have the latest version of any application. This will go a long way towards protecting important company information.

## MANUFACTURERS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE

**There are currently real concerns amongst British manufacturers about the deterioration in business conditions as output continues to fall.**

Small manufacturers that have been affected by the downturn in economic conditions have found their optimism dwindling fast.

What with onerous conditions in the domestic market, uncertainty over Europe and a clear loss of impetus in global growth, there are signs that the culmination of these setbacks are beginning to take their toll on smaller manufacturers in particular.

### STALLING

The latest figures indicate that production has fallen over the last few months and sentiment is beginning to deteriorate rapidly. Growth in demand has stalled with little improvement expected in the coming months.

### SILVER LINING

Perhaps one of the few bright spots in an otherwise somewhat restrained picture is that small manufacturers are planning to increase staffing levels despite the problematic outlook.

This has to be a positive sign for the many thousands currently seeking employment.

