



BEATING THE THREAT OF CYBER CRIMINALS



Despite a rash of high-profile cyber crimes in recent months, small business leaders remain confused on how to protect themselves. While nearly half of small businesses with between six and 49 employees understand the protection needed to ward off a physical theft, the majority simply do not understand how to combat today's cyber criminal which can lead to millions of pounds in lost revenue.

Overall, small business leaders spend less than two days a year on contingency planning for a data security breach. The area small businesses appear to be most vulnerable to cyber criminals is via mobile devices. While nearly all small businesses have cyber-security systems installed on their company's desktop and laptop computers, few appear to have the same protection on their tablets and smart phones.

MUST DO BETTER

Small businesses need to do a much better job of protecting themselves as the consequences for ignoring this growing problem can be totally catastrophic. Please find some pointers below:

- **Be proactive:** Since security updates for computer operating systems and software often arrive too late to be effective, don't wait for them to be sent to you. Instead, have protection systems in place that are proactive and thorough.
- **Automatic updates:** To reduce the risk of malware spreading through your network, set up automatic security updates for your essential software.
- **Go wireless:** Use wireless encryption to establish a secure protection against cyber criminals.

- **Change passwords:** Small businesses should mandate that employees regularly change their passwords.

Some very high-profile brands have fallen victim to cyber criminals, compromising both the companies' reputations and their customers' information. Because these companies are so large, they were all able to mobilise their resources and recover from the breaches. However, if the same thing happened to a small business, there is a pretty good chance it would be ruined for good.

TOP PRIORITY FOR 2015

In light of the alarming rate at which hackers are targeting businesses, every company, regardless of size or sector, should make cyber security one of its top priorities in 2015.

FINANCIAL DYNAMICS



For further help and advice
please telephone us on

0121 321 1700