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.


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.*