CYBERSECURITY 101 FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



Cyber Awareness Training: Provide regular cybersecurity training for all employees. Educate your employees about different social engineering tactics. Focus on how they can identify and report cyber incidents.

Use Strong Passwords & Implement MFA: Ensure that employees use complex and unique passwords for all accounts and systems. Implement Multifactor Authentication (MFA) wherever it is supported.

Secure Devices: Ensure that all devices used for business purposes, i.e., computers, smartphones, and tablets, are protected with updated antivirus software and that software is always kept updated.

Vendor Security: If you work with third-party vendors or suppliers, it is your responsibility to ensure that they have adequate cybersecurity measures in place, especially if they have access to your network, systems, or sensitive data.

Incident Response Plan: At some point, a cyber incident will happen. Develop an incident response plan that outlines steps to take in the event of a cybersecurity incident. This should include procedures for reporting the incident, containing the incident, and recovering from the incident. (You may need to work with a professional on this one).

Cybersecurity is an ongoing effort: Regularly review and update your security measures to stay ahead of evolving threats. Educate yourself and never adopt the mentality that it can never happen to you. Taking proactive steps can significantly reduce the risk of cyberattacks on your business.

Familiarise yourself with your regulatory obligations: If you operate in South Africa and store or process personal data, you must be aware of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) and what it means to your business. Similarly, if you process card payments, you should be aware of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS). It is your responsibility to understand your regulatory obligations and ensure compliance.

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CyberAwareness
Influencing change, one message at a time