



Protect Your Organization From Cyber Risk

As cyber attacks become more common, businesses can no longer afford to ignore the risk.

Cyber protection doesn't need to be costly or complicated. The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security has outlined a number of measures that small businesses can take to protect themselves against cyber attacks, including the following:



Train your employees – Tailor your training programs to address your organization's cyber security protocols, policies, and procedures. Having an informed workforce can reduce the likelihood of cyber incidents.



Develop an incident response plan – If you have a plan, you can quickly respond to incidents, restore critical systems and data, and keep service interruptions and data loss to a minimum. Your plan should include strategies for backing up data.



Use strong user authentication – Implement user authentication policies that balance security and usability. Ensure your devices authenticate users before they can gain access to your systems. Wherever possible, use two-factor authentication or multi-factor authentication.



Enable security software – Activate firewalls and install anti-virus and anti-malware software on your devices to thwart malicious attacks and protect against malware. Ensure you download this software from a reputable provider. Install Domain Name System (DNS) filtering on your mobile devices to block out malicious websites and filter harmful content.



Patch operating systems and applications – When software issues or vulnerabilities are identified, vendors release patches to fix bugs, address known vulnerabilities, and improve usability or performance. Where possible, enable automatic patches and updates for all software and hardware to prevent threat actors from exploiting these issues or security vulnerabilities.



Back up and encrypt data – Copy your information and critical applications to one or more secure locations, such as the cloud or an external hard drive. If a cyber incident or natural disaster happens, these copies can help you continue business activities and prevent data loss. Backups can be done online or offline and can also be done in three different iterations: full, differential or incremental. Test your backups regularly to ensure you can restore your data.

Organizations can learn more about protecting themselves from cyber attacks through [Canadian Centre for Cyber Security](#). This federally run authority on cyber security has a series of publicly available educational articles on the topic of cyber security and resilience, including a certification program, called [CyberSecure Canada](#), which is delivered in partnership with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada that can help small and medium-sized enterprises audit their cyber hygiene.

Insurance Bureau of Canada is here to help.

If you have questions about cyber insurance, contact our risk manager service by calling 1-844-2ask-IBC (1-844-227-5422) or send an email to us at riskmanager@ibc.ca. This service is provided free of charge to help brokers and their clients with commercial insurance challenges.