

RISK INSIGHTS

7 TIPS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS FROM THE RISKS OF REMOTE EMPLOYEES



With a rapid increase in telecommuting, every device, email server, and Wi-Fi network accessed outside of the business network is a new potential access point or vulnerability for hackers to exploit. **Business leaders must establish strict policies and employee guidelines to avoid a cybercrime crisis during this unprecedented push to work remotely.**

FOLLOW THESE SEVEN TIPS TO REDUCE THREATS:

Issue security policy guidance and rules

Annual trainings and email reminders from the IT department are not enough to keep good cyber habits top of mind for employees. A fresh reminder can go a long way to reinforce security best practices.

Set up a VPN

A virtual private network (VPN) system creates an encrypted tunnel that your internet traffic travels through so it can't be seen by third parties. Setting up a VPN can seem daunting, but it only requires a couple hours to configure and isn't technically difficult. VPN with multifactor authentication should be used as it is the strongest defense.

Require use of encryption and Wi-Fi protected access (WPA) to Secure Networks

While no Wi-Fi is totally secure, private, password protected networks are significantly more secure than public Wi-Fi networks—especially those offered in cafes, hotels, and other public places. You can always ask a business that offers public Wi-Fi if private password protected networks are available.

Password-protect devices used by employees and third parties

Require employees to use strong passwords that contain letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using the same password on multiple devices/accounts.

Maintain anti-virus and anti-malware software

Remind employees to install and regularly update adequate security software on all electronic devices they use to perform work remotely. That could include a phone, tablet, laptop, etc. Some employers are eliminating bring your own device (BYOD) options and mandating that employees use only employer-supplied equipment and devices.

Power down

Encourage employees to power down computers when not in use. While powered off, computers are not accessible or susceptible to attacks or intrusions from the internet.

Back-up data

Regularly back-up sensitive information and, depending on the importance of the data, make sure it is encrypted. Secure back-ups are the best strategy to prevent critical business disruptions in case of a ransomware attack.

For more information on making your business safer, contact our Risk Services Department at **1.833.692.4111** or visit us at **www.nbins.com**.