5 STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANY FROM RANSOMWARE

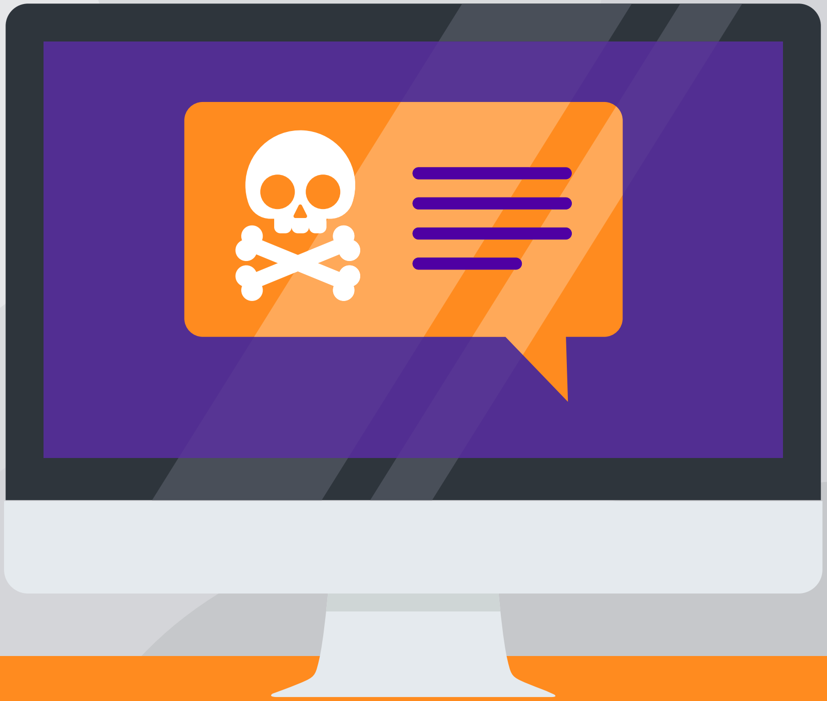
REDUCE YOUR RISK

Few words strike fear in the hearts of business owners like "ransomware." True to its name, ransomware hijacks your data until a ransom is paid.

Although it first appeared in 1989, this form of malware exploded on the scene in 2017 with a variant called "Wannacry," which wreaked havoc on an unprecedented scale, infecting nearly a quarter million computers in 150 countries. It was a wakeup call to businesses large and small.

Since then ransomware has grown more prevalent and more challenging to combat. While no foolproof solutions exist, there are steps you can take right now to reduce the risks to your business.

READ ON to Learn 5 Steps to Protect Your Company from Ransomware



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STEP 1

EDUCATE YOUR STAFF ON PROPER “CYBERHYGIENE”

Most ransomware attacks are the result of phishing attacks, sloppy password and file-management practices or other forms of human error. Educate your employees on these risks and ask them to follow simple rules like these:

- **Think before you click.** Were you expecting the file or URL you were sent? When in doubt, delete! And just because it came from someone you know doesn’t mean it’s safe— the sender may have been compromised.
- **Don’t access public Wi-Fi.** It’s awesome that your local coffee shop offers screaming-fast Wi-Fi to go with that steaming-hot coffee, but it’s not safe. Use a VPN or disable your Wi-Fi and work from your hard drive. The coffee will taste just as good.
- **Change passwords regularly.** And make them formidable – at least 10 characters long with uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols.
- **Protect your passwords.** Add two-factor authentication and don’t store passwords in browsers so that if your computer is compromised, cybercriminals can’t breach other platforms and files.

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STEPS
2

LIMIT FILE ACCESS

Limit file and folder access to only those files that employees need in order to perform their duties. Sectioning off the data this way can limit the damage of any one breach. Think of it like a navy ship – each compartment is sealed off so a breach in one section doesn't bring the whole ship down. Storing data in different locations offers similar protections.

As Benjamin Franklin might have put it: In a ransomware world, a file saved is a file earned.

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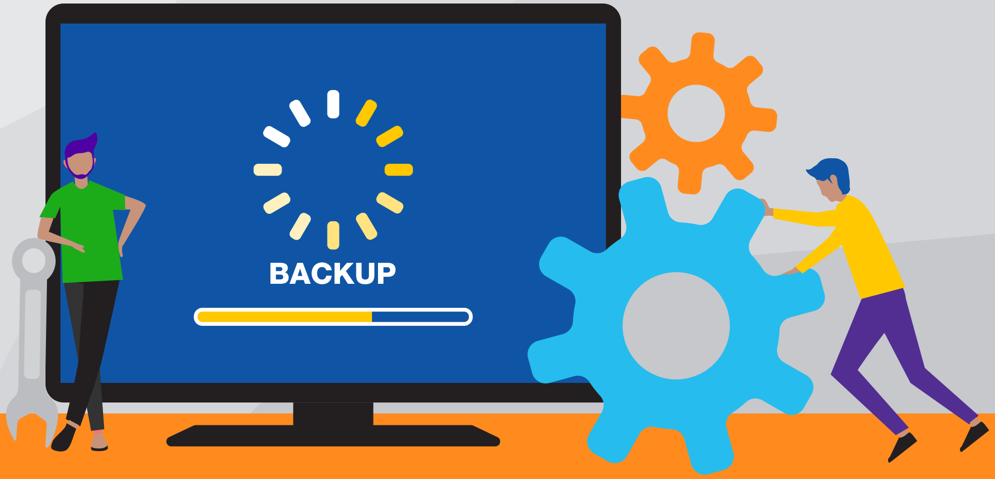
STEP 3

PUT IN PLACE BACKUP AND CONTINUITY PLANS

Data backup and continuity plans have a bad rap. In fairness, they used to be complicated, confusing and costly. But today's solutions make it far easier to plan for disaster and recovery (and in many cases avoid downtime altogether), and many solutions actually create room in your budget to pay for it all. And you don't have to go it alone – we help you plan and source everything you need.



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STEP 4

ACT LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN ATTACKED

If you'd already been attacked, you'd be doing everything on this list and then some. And that's a great irony for most businesses — cyberthreats are so prolific that experts say it's not a matter of if your company will be attacked, but when. So, why let your company be an easy target? Update those firewalls and software platforms, get your cybersecurity policies (internal policies and cyberinsurance policies alike) in place and give your security the attention it deserves. When the inevitable attack comes, you'll be ready for it.

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STEP 5

LET MANAGED SECURITY DO THE HEAVY LIFTING

We can't understate the importance of monitoring and detection. If you're using a cloud storage service with the ability to restore to any point over the previous 30 days, knowing when your files were compromised is central to successful restoration.

But today's managed security solutions offer much more than monitoring and detection, which is why managed solutions are listed as the best step small and medium businesses (SMBs) can take to protect themselves from ransomware.

Managed security services can make your network and infrastructure much more formidable to cybercriminals, and they can take care of many of the mundane-but-necessary maintenance tasks necessary to keep your protection up to date (read: they can help a lot with Step 4). After all, you have more to take care of in your day than worry about cyberattacks—like growing your business.

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WANT PEACE OF MIND?

[COMPANY_NAME] helps clients gain peace of mind every day through our access to 200+ providers of technology services, and we can help your company find the right security, continuity and recovery solutions on-time and on-budget.

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