

## 5 Free Ways to Improve Cyber Security for Small Business

By JM Lucien

The internet makes it easier for today's small businesses to compete with larger organizations. However, because smaller organizations do not have the resources of their larger counterparts, they are easier targets for hackers. According to [Kataku](#) Technology, 62 percent of cyber-attacks are directed at small and mid-sized businesses. This article will not provide all of the answers you may need, but it can point you in the right direction to start protecting your business and data today even if your resources are limited. First and foremost, we highly recommended developing a cybersecurity plan customized for your business.

The 5 areas this article will address are:

1. Passwords
2. OS Updates
3. Wi-Fi Security
4. Antivirus
5. Backup your data

One of the most important ways to protect yourself online and offline is by using secure passwords that are difficult to guess. Using family names, birthdays and dictionary words make it easier for your accounts to be compromised. Make sure all of your passwords use a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters whenever possible.

Installing operating system updates is the best way to close the known security vulnerabilities of your operating system. Mac OS, Microsoft operating systems and all browsers have been compromised at some point. Keeping your OS and browsers up to date will reduce your attack footprint.

Wi-Fi security is also an important key to preventing unauthorized access to your company network. Make sure that you change all passwords when installing new equipment. Remember that default passwords can be found on the [internet](#) for most network devices. Don't forget to use a strong password for your Wi-Fi. If possible create a separate network for guests and non-company devices and don't broadcast the corporate Wi-Fi (SSID).

Antivirus and malware programs are a great way to protect your corporate infrastructure from most viruses and malware. There are many decent free solutions available for anyone without protection. AVG, Avast, Avira, Malwarebytes, and Bitdefender are just a few of the companies that offer free solutions.

Lastly, backing up your data and keeping a copy off site is key to being able to recover from an attack or a catastrophe. The solution can be as simple as moving your important files to a flash drive, Google Drive, iCloud, Dropbox or any one of a number of free data storage services available on the internet. Your important files could still be easily accessed if, for instance, you dropped your laptop and then found that it was beyond repair.

Keep an eye out for next steps small and midsized businesses can take to beef up security even more once you have a budget. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to reach out to [info@misits.com](mailto:info@misits.com).