

# Protect your business' cybersecurity in 5 steps

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SevenC, a leading IT infrastructure and network service provider, provides five quick cybersecurity steps businesses must take before the Christmas rush.



“With the festive season just around the corner, it’s time to pay even closer attention to cybersecurity. We rely on an increasing amount of technology in our daily lives. Unfortunately, this means that a potential attacker has more opportunities to find an opening,” says Graeme Millar, managing director of SevenC Computing.

“Many small businesses believe that because of their size, they don’t have anything worth stealing. Login credentials that could be used to gain access to other accounts, personal information about your customers or employees, and your payroll (without even getting into the specifics of your industry) are already valuable for any would-be attacker.”

You don’t want to be one of the 60% of small businesses that fail within six months of a cyberattack.

Follow these cybersecurity steps from SevenC to lessen cyber threats to your business:

## 1. Follow password industry best practices

Did you know that 80% of data breaches caused by hacking involve compromised or weak credentials?

Stolen credentials are used in 29% of all breaches.

Making sure your users understand and follow industry best practices for passwords is the first step for any small business. That means a unique password for each website and application, as well as long, random combinations of letters, numbers, symbols, and multiword passwords.

Remembering all of your passwords and sharing accounts with everyone on your team who needs to use them can be difficult. A password manager is essential in a small business.

## 2. Establish a patching and update schedule

Unpatched devices are another common source of vulnerabilities for both large and small businesses. As the Internet of Things (IoT) becomes more prevalent, an increasing number of devices, from printers to watches, are being linked to our business networks. That means more potential entry points for an attacker. The solution is to commit to regular patching and updating so that you know every device connected to your network is up to date. It can be a significant addition to your IT staff’s workload.

## 3. Enhance your cybersecurity education

Regarding cybersecurity, the adage “what you don’t know can’t hurt you” is false. With the growing popularity of attacks that rely on fooling the humans behind the technology, it’s never been more important to ensure that everyone can identify a suspicious email when they see one.

Teaching people what to look for and what to do about it can greatly reduce your chances of being caught out.

#### 4. Employ a reputable IT services provider

Keeping your network up-to-date, secure, and operationally sound is a difficult task for any small business' IT department.

You can hire a team of network security experts from a managed IT service provider. You get assistance with everything from network connectivity to device updates and 24/7 network monitoring and threat detection. Working with a managed IT services provider also frees up your internal IT resources to focus on assisting you in using technology to gain a competitive advantage. Your IT team can shift from a reactive mindset to a more proactive mindset, looking for opportunities to transform your core business processes and score some big wins.

#### 5. Take action right now

A single data breach can put your company out of commission, so it's critical to take precautions now to avoid this.

#### Conclusion

While cybersecurity is important all year round, it's even more so during the silly season.

To keep your business safe from cyberattacks, use industry best practices for passwords to avoid becoming a target. Make a commitment to a device patching and upgrading schedule, seek assistance, enhance your cybersecurity training to ensure that your team is up to date, and consider hiring a managed IT services provider such as SevenC.