



Don't Be Phish Food



You have probably heard by now to be aware of Phish emails. Cybercriminals try to scam you and your employees by sending malicious emails. Phishing is a type of social engineering attack in which cybercriminals send emails that are designed to collect information like your password, bank account information and credit card information. The cybercriminals are masquerading as a trusted person or entity trying to convince you to open the email and provide the information.

Unfortunately, we have seen time and time again where employees are unknowingly providing business and personal information to these cybercriminals. So, what should you do?

Phish test your employees - we can simulate these phishing emails (they look VERY real) to see how your employees respond. We can provide you reports in which employees clicked on the emails, opened attachments and provided sensitive information.

Train your employees - especially those who clicked on the links/attachments and provided information. Training options include online training with a test at the end as well as lunch and learns.

We have lots of options to help you out. Stay vigilant with cybersecurity. Give us a call today, your cybersecurity experts, 845-2387-2117



3 Critical Cyber Security Protections EVERY Business Must Have In Place NOW To Avoid Being Hacked

Five years ago, you might have had state-of-the-art security protecting your business and network. You had the latest malware protection, highly rated firewalls, and a great data backup plan. Maybe you even had a handbook on how to address cyberthreats. You were set. But then you forgot to do one crucial thing: you didn't stay up-to-date with your IT security policy.

This is a trap countless businesses fall into - they invest in great cybersecurity once. Five years ago, this was fantastic, but the problem is, cyberthreats are constantly evolving. Methods used by hackers and cybercriminals have come a long way in the past five years and criminals stay on top of what's going on in the IT security industry. They are always looking for new ways to steal your data and make a quick buck at your expense.

What can you do to stay up-to-date in an ever-changing digital world? Here are three things every business must do to protect itself.

Understand The Threats

It's easy to assume hackers are trying to get into your network the "old-fashioned" way. You might picture them hacking your network trying to get your passwords and usernames or breaking through your firewall protection. While some hackers will do this (it's easy for them if you use simple passwords), many of today's cybercriminals rely on social engineering.

The most common form of social engineering is the phishing scam. The criminal sends you or your employees an e-mail, hoping someone will click a link or open an attached file. Cybercriminals have gotten VERY sophisticated. These e-mails can mimic the look of a

legitimate e-mail from a legitimate business, such as the local bank you work with or another company you buy from (or that buys from you). Social engineering is all about tricking people.

This is why you need a cybersecurity handbook – one that is regularly updated and something you can reference. Your team needs to know how to identify a phishing e-mail and you need to have procedures in place for what to do if a questionable e-mail shows up. This helps keep your employees from becoming the weak link in your security setup.

Update, Update And Update

From software to hardware, you must stay updated. There is no such thing as “one-and-done” when it comes to network security. Something as simple as a wireless router can DESTROY your security if it’s not regularly updated. Hackers are always looking for vulnerabilities in both hardware and software, and when they find them, they WILL exploit them.

“Proactive monitoring means your network is being watched 24/7.”

What happens when a piece of hardware (like a router) is no longer supported by the manufacturer? This occurs all the time, particularly as hardware ages. Manufacturers and developers drop support for their older technology so they can focus on their newer products. When they drop support for a product you use, this is a good indicator that you

need to replace that piece of hardware. The same applies to software.

You might balk at the cost of buying new technology, but in the long run, the cost is well worth it. Think of the cost of buying a new router versus the cost of cleaning up after a data breach. Some small businesses never recover after a hack – it’s just too expensive. Keep your malware software updated, keep your firewall updated, keep your cloud backups updated, and keep all your devices and software **UPDATED!**

Invest In Proactive Network Monitoring

When it comes to the security of your network and overall business, being proactive can make a huge difference. Proactive monitoring means your network is being watched 24/7. Every little ping or access to your network is watched and assessed. If a threat is found, then it can be stopped.

The great thing about proactive network monitoring is that you can customize it. Want to know about every threat? You can request a real-time report. Only want updates once a day or once a week? That can be done too! This approach means you have one less thing to think about. Someone is always keeping an eye on your network, making sure the bad guys stay out.

You might think, “How am I going to do all this?” You don’t have to go it alone – and you shouldn’t. Work with an IT services firm. Work together to find the best solutions for your business. When you work with IT specialists, you can rest assured your team will be updated on today’s threats. You’ll know your network – and everything connected to it – is updated, and you’ll know someone is watching over you. That’s the ultimate peace of mind.



3 Smart Phone Best Practices

Security for your smartphone is just as important as IT security for your business. It starts with best practices to keep cybercriminals from stealing your data.

Here are three ways to keep your smartphone more secure.

1. Monitor App Permissions.

Many apps ask for permission to access your camera, calendar or contacts. For some apps, you can say yes – if it makes sense and you trust the app. For everything else, say no. Newer phones make it easy to configure permissions.

2. Keep Your Phone and Apps Updated.

Make sure your apps and your phone’s operating system are constantly

updated to receive the latest security patches. The best way to do this is to set everything to automatically update.

3. Download from trusted sources.

Only download apps from Google Play and Apple’s App Store. Look up the app developer and read reviews and descriptions to make sure the app you’re downloading is legitimate.

Take These 3 Steps to Protect Your Data From



Disasters, emergencies, and global pandemics provide a target-rich environment for cybercriminals to launch phishing attacks and employ other dirty tricks to gain access to your data. It only takes one staffer opening a bogus email, clicking on a dangerous link, or downloading a malware-laden attachment for them to succeed.

Here are three ways that you can act immediately to prevent a potentially disastrous data breach:

1. Plan, Preserve, and Protect

Is your cybersecurity plan adequate for the unique challenges presented? Two-factor authentication and other tools like VPN help keep your organization's data and systems safe even when workers aren't in the office.

2. Trust but Verify

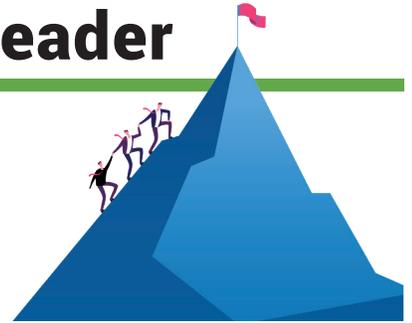
Be wary of any email with a COVID-19-related subject line, attachment, or hyperlink. Avoid sharing or clicking on social media posts, text messages, or IMs offering Coronavirus information, vaccination, treatment or cures.

3. Make Prevention a Priority

Refresh every staffer's training on how to spot phishing scams and online fraud. Reinforce that clicking on links or opening attachments from unfamiliar sources is a quick way for scammers to infect your systems with malware. Employee Security Awareness Training and Phishing Simulations can help make sure that your staff is ready to spot and defend against attack.

In these uncertain times, we're happy to be your trusted source for the tools and strategies that you need to keep cybercriminals out of your business. Let's have a conversation today, before it's too late: (845) 237-2117.

Building Confidence As A Business Leader



How can you build your confidence as a CEO, investor or entrepreneur?

My colleagues and I at ghSMART see many talented people work hard to build their confidence.

New CEOs have impostor syndrome. Private equity investors who just raised another \$1 billion in funds read newspaper headlines about the coming recession and quietly gulp. Self-made billionaire entrepreneurs worry that their fortunes will take an embarrassing hit. Newly elected government leaders worry about whether their results will live up to their campaign promises.

We find that leaders are less confident when they obsess about things they can't control, rather than take action in the areas they can control.

Like what?

The Wall Street Journal reported the results of a Conference Board survey (Jan. 16, 2019) of what is on the mind of 800 CEOs.

External Hot-Button Issues

1. Recession
2. Global trade
3. Politics

Internal Hot-Button Issues

1. Attracting and retaining top talent
2. Disruptive technologies
3. Developing the next generation of leaders

What this survey says to me is this: it's good to be aware of issues that are outside of your control – recession, global trade and politics. But it's even more brilliant to master the things that are within your control – hiring and retaining top talent, developing digital capabilities and developing the next generation of leaders.



Geoff Smart is chairman and founder of ghSMART. Geoff is co-author, with his colleague Randy Street, of the New York Times best-selling book *Who: A Method For Hiring* and the author of the #1 Wall Street Journal best seller *Leadocracy: Hiring More Great Leaders (Like You) Into Government*. Geoff co-created the Topgrading brand of talent management. He is the founder of two 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations. SMARTKids Leadership Program™ provides 10 years of leadership tutoring, and the Leaders Initiative™ seeks to deploy society's greatest leaders into government. Geoff earned a B.A. in economics with honors from Northwestern University and a master's and doctorate in psychology from Claremont Graduate University.

Is my team strong enough?

If you have a high degree of confidence in your team, then keep doing what you are doing to hire and develop them.

But if you don't have a high degree of confidence in your team, then you should focus on hiring, developing and retaining more of the right people who fit your strategy and who can achieve the results you seek.

How?

There are three ways to build confidence in your team. You can invest the time to master the skills and best practices around hiring, developing and retaining top talent yourself. You can engage ghSMART to do it for you. Or (what most of our clients do) you can engage ghSMART to solve this problem immediately and build your skills in this area for your longterm success. (A quick side note: I'm very proud to report that my colleagues achieved 99% "high" client-reported satisfaction over the past 12 months. So, to go with this confidence theme, I have a very high degree of confidence that my team will help you solve your #1 problem!)

A great way to build confidence in yourself as a leader is to build your confidence in your team.

If you are the CEO of a company that generates over \$1 billion in revenue (or has raised at least a \$1 billion fund), then please reach out if you would like my team to help you build confidence in your team to deliver the results you want to achieve.

3 Technology Truths For Transforming Your Business

1 You have to keep up. Tech changes fast. By the end of this year, 5G will be more widely available – along with devices that can use it. More businesses will be relying on artificial intelligence to supplement productivity and customer interaction, putting them light-years ahead of the competition that lags behind.

2 You have to invest. Change comes with cost. If you aren't willing to invest in new technology, then you will fall behind, and so will your support and security. If you run into any problems, then you could be in big trouble.

3 Don't fall behind on cybersecurity. It's easy to forget about cyber security when things are running smoothly and working as intended, but cybercriminals never stop. They are always looking for a way in, and if you fall behind the times on your IT security, then you make it easier for them. Keep your data and your customers as secure as possible.



How Malware Can Cripple Your Business

Every year, the number of malware attacks on small businesses increases. Semantec's 2018 Internet Security Threat Report found that between 2017 and 2018, malware increased by 54%.

The term "malware" covers a number of different malicious programs, including ransomware, spyware, viruses, worms, Trojan horses and more.

In many cases, malware is designed to take over your computer. It may be programmed to look for specific data or it may give a hacker remote access to your files.

In the case of ransomware, it locks you out of your computer until you pay the hacker a ransom. After that, the hacker may give you back control – or they might delete everything on your hard drive. These are not good people.

If you don't invest in cyber security, then hackers can destroy your business. It's already happened to countless businesses across the country and estimated that websites experience up to 58 cyber-attacks every day. Protect yourself before it's too late.



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