



Does your business need a Cyber Spring Clean?

Now that Spring is finally here the government is promoting it's #CyberSpringClean campaign. As technology continues to evolve at such a fast pace, cyber security needs to keep up with it - and a check once a year can help to do this.

Although it can be a difficult topic to understand for some small business owners, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) are behind the new initiative and there is a Small Business Guide now available to all UK businesses. The average cyber-attack on a small business costs almost £900 - so to prevent this from happening Clare Gardiner, director of engagement at NCSC, suggests that:

“Having an individual whose job role includes cyber security is directly linked to a faster response. Identifying a ‘cyber security champion’ in your company is a great way to help avoid a damaging cyber-attack or data breach on your business. They don’t need to be a technical expert, as we offer some great free advice in the Small Business Guide.”

The Small Business Guide is available to download by visiting www.ncsc.gov.uk. It includes topics such as protecting your organisation from malware; what to consider when backing up your data; steps to help you identify the most common phishing attacks; tips that can help to keep your mobile devices (and the information stored on them) secure and things to keep in mind when using passwords to protect your data.

According to Margot James, digital minister:

“The UK is home to millions of successful small companies, but we know that protecting against cyber-attacks is hard to do whilst juggling all the other issues involved in running a business. We want to make it as easy as possible for small businesses to benefit from being online and to do so safely, which is why we are working closely with the NCSC to promote the practical steps firms can take.”

On a more positive note, the results of the 2019 Cyber Security Breaches Survey published this month showed that the percentage of businesses experiencing cyber breaches or attacks has dropped from 43% to 32%. The tough new data laws under the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) introduced in May last year have had a positive impact on cyber security - encouraging businesses to make changes to their cyber security policies and procedures in order to comply. However the NCSC still urges businesses to train more people to help manage cyber risks as although fewer businesses in

the survey identified a cyber security attack – the typical median number of breaches has risen from 4 to 6.

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