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# CYBER HYGIENE IS CRITICAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF SMALL BUSINESS



## IT IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO HAVE PROPER SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE

Throughout history, diseases have been discovered with the potential to have a devastating impact on our health. However, when we haven't had access to the cures of these diseases we have countered the threat by using sound hygiene practices. Cyber crime is no different, and as small business operators are now more likely to be the target of a cyber attack, good cyber hygiene is more critical than ever.

### What is cyber crime?

Cyber-crime is a dishonest or criminal activity online or by phone. Unfortunately, the instigators of these crimes are becoming more sophisticated. It is estimated that cyber-crime costs Australians approximately \$17 billion each year and the majority of attacks are directed at small business. Examples of cyber-crime include:

- Emails containing malicious software or viruses
- The theft or loss of critical business information
- Invalid invoicing and payments
- Hacking into business systems

### Prevention is better than the cure

Protecting yourself against cyber-crime takes time and we recommend businesses put an action plan into place to review and manage the ongoing risks.

Here are a few tips on how to improve cyber hygiene in your business:

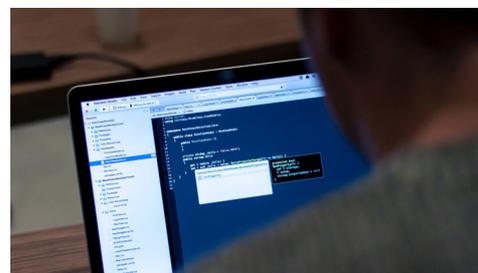
1. Ensure that everyone on email is conscious of 'stranger danger' and aware not to click on advertising links. Instead, go to the web browser and login to the relevant site via the full url – starting with www.
2. Never share passwords or use a password file – instead use proven password protection software and two step authentication.
3. Only use password secured Wi-Fi.
4. Back up your data regularly and ensure it is stored offsite and is not linked to your system.
5. Ensure your laptops are set up with encryption, not just passwords as these will not protect the hard drive from being hacked.
6. Importantly, provide your team with training and education in cyber security.

### Here are some useful resources:

Australian Government – Cyber Security Centre: [www.cyber.gov.au](http://www.cyber.gov.au)

Download the NSW Small Business Commission Cyber Aware National Report (released in November 2017) at [https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/134933/Cyber-Aware-full-report.pdf](https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/134933/Cyber-Aware-full-report.pdf)

Just like good hygiene – it is up to all of us to develop sound cyber security habits. Contact your adviser at BMG to find out more about how you can improve your Cyber Security.



### THE BMG TEAM

Our team consists of passionate people working together to achieve extraordinary things. By combining our knowledge and experience, you can rely on us to achieve the best outcomes for you, our client.



### WHAT'S NEXT

If you are looking to work with a team of professionals to achieve your dreams, give us a call on (02) 6024 3000.

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