



Network Security: A Critical Component to Any Business IT Plan



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In this day and age, every business, no matter its size or substance, is in some way dependent on some form of data and/or communications network. Regardless of the network style upon which the company relies—public access, private with an Internet connection, proprietary or more than one of these—there is one universal truth: security is a critically important issue that every company must take seriously. The nature and likelihood of threat will vary from one organization to the next, but the existence of a threat of some kind will always be present. An experienced managed service provider understands this

and can help identify and implement systems solutions to help ensure the digital security of your business.

Security Threats: One Size Doesn't Fit All

One of the most confounding aspects of network security is that there isn't a simple "off the rack" solution that will address every business' concerns. Attack susceptibility can vary from organization to organization on both quantitative and qualitative metrics. Due to the nature of the network and the business or organization utilizing it, for instance, some are more prone to various forms of active attack and some may be more susceptible to passive intrusion. Still others may find themselves at heightened risk of both types of threats. A knowledgeable managed service provider can recommend the appropriate level and style of network security approach to implement to best address each entity's issues.

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Responses: A Targeted Approach to a Variable Problem

Just as the nature and quantity of threats to businesses and organizations vary, so should the level of response when implementing network security solutions. For instance, depending on their network needs some very small businesses may need relatively little in the way of intervention. Comprehensive malware protection software, hardware and software firewalls, a robust system of password implementation and adjustment, and the strongest security setting available for all wireless devices may be sufficient.

Larger companies—and many small ones, depending on their network usage and data requirements—may need far more than this to fend off would-be attacks. Implementation might include the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPN), dedicated network analysis and monitoring, proxy server utilization, special user authentication protocols and dynamic password requirements, among other things. Companies and organizations engaged in special, high risk endeavors will have additional security needs that will require customized solutions. In all of these cases, managed service provider



security experts will be able to assess needs, make targeted recommendations and implement agreed upon solutions.

Taking Advantage of Experience

While virtually all areas of IT can be daunting to those without direct expertise in the field, none have the catastrophic implications from neglect that are attached to security. The nature of network threats are changing all the time. Simply keeping up with the dynamic aspects of security implementation is difficult, let alone directly addressing these threats. Managed service providers are on top of all the latest issues, both threats and solutions, and are uniquely positioned to handle these matters for businesses and organizations of all shapes and sizes.

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