The Logical Advantage

TeamLogicIT®
Your Technology Advisor

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Top Ways to Foster Cybersecure Culture

Next month is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, an annual observance run by the U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) since 2004.

Why? Because monetary losses by individuals and businesses from cybercrimes have nearly tripled since 2020.

That's why on the eve of this year's CISA campaign we're advocating for cybersecure corporate culture.

What is a cybersecure culture? In basic terms, company leaders:

1. **Provision for expert resources** inside and outside the firm's physical and virtual borders, because cybercriminals respect neither of those boundaries.
2. **Invest in continual education** for team members at all levels of the organization.
3. **Empower diligent defense** by holding workers at all levels accountable to rigorous cybersecurity policies, processes and practices.

How can small to medium-sized business leaders promote a cybersecure culture? We endorse this approach:

1. Create and strengthen **security policies** that cover device usage, network access privileges and breach response and recovery plans.
2. Implement regular **awareness and training** programs that teach all employees vigilance is critical and time is of the essence.
3. **Monitor and measure** network traffic and user behaviors to set benchmarks as a backdrop for identifying irregularities and outliers – potential alerts to malicious activities.

Want more insight into cybersecure culture? Give us a call.

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Viewpoint

Build Cyber Resilience with AUP

Economist and tech historian W. Brian Arthur calls today's digital business environment a "period of great uncertainty" that calls for "resilience." This means continually adapting technology by having a "toolkit of preparedness" that includes people, plans, responses, ideas, possibilities, attitudes, and equipment that allow you to construct solutions quickly.

Other tech pundits just call that Cyber Resilience.

How can leaders of small to medium-sized businesses build cyber resilience in their organizations? We believe a corporate Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is an excellent foundation. These resources commonly include these categories:

- Software
- Internet access
- Networks including peripherals
- Devices – i.e., computers, laptops, tablets, smartphones
- Email accounts and messaging apps

An AUP should offer guidance and set protocols for secure computing, as well as define appropriate ways to use digital assets and communications channels.

Who develops an AUP? Here are the key stakeholders:

- Senior leadership
- IT management
- Legal counsel

What are the basics of an AUP?

- What's acceptable and not
- Specific consequences of violating policy

Everyone benefits from an AUP – your firm and everyone working there.

IT Strategy

3 Pillars of Acceptable Use Policy

To develop a solid AUP, global IT association CompTIA recommends covering these vital areas:

Approved Devices
Key questions:

- Which devices will the company provide?
- How will corporate or personal devices be authenticated for network access?

Any authorized user accessing your network should know their device may be confiscated for investigation in case of a cybersecurity incident.

Approved Software
Key questions:

- Which applications may operate on the company network?
- Which applications may be installed on authorized devices?
- How will rules be enforced by consequences?

Approval processes should be documented and administered promptly to encourage adherence to policies and procedures.

Approved Interfaces
Key questions:

- May your authorized users connect approved devices to other networks?
- How will your IT team screen these external networks and data feeds before connection?

Protocols governing external connections should follow relevant regulations, such as privacy and breach disclosure laws.

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