RJ2
TECHNOLOGIES

Newsletter

What's Inside

How To Be Proactive With Your Cybersecurity Defenses

It is good to have an IT team and/or a third-party partner like a managed services provider (MSP) that helps keep your company protected against cyberthreats. It is even better to have all stakeholders be involved in preventing data breaches. Here's how everyone can be proactive when it comes to cybersecurity.

UNDERSTAND THE THREATS YOU'RE FACING
Before any small- or medium-sized business (SMB) can work toward preventing cyberattacks, everyone involved needs to know exactly what they're up against. Whether you're working with in-house IT staff or an MSP, you should review what types of attacks are most common in your industry. Ideally, your team would spearhead this review a few times a year.

REEVALUATE WHAT IT IS YOU'RE PROTECTING
Once you have a list of the biggest threats to your organization, you need to take stock of how each one threatens the various cogs of your network. Map out every company device that connects to the internet, what type of data they have access to (regulated, mission-critical, low-importance, etc.), and what services are currently protecting those devices.

CREATE A BASELINE OF PROTECTION
By reviewing current trends in the cybersecurity field and auditing your current technology framework, you can begin to get a clearer picture of how you want to prioritize your preventative measures versus your reactive measures.

Before you can start improving your cybersecurity approach, you need to know where your baseline is. Devise a handful of real-life scenarios and simulate them on your network. Network penetration testing from trustworthy IT professionals will help pinpoint weak spots in your current framework.

FINALIZE A PLAN
All these pieces will complete the puzzle of what your new strategy needs to be. With an experienced technology consultant on board for the entire process, you can easily synthesize the results of your simulation into a multipronged approach to proactive security.

Are You Sufficiently Cooling Your Servers?

Today, many businesses rely on servers for their day-to-day operations. If your servers are hosted locally, you should be aware that proper temperature control plays a vital role in keeping them running smoothly. Knowing how to properly cool your servers can help minimize the risk of crashes, which can cause downtime.

HOW DOES TEMPERATURE AFFECT SERVERS?

High server temperatures can cause it to crash, resulting in costly data loss and service interruptions. If a server's temperature rises above 70 degrees Fahrenheit, the server's reliability decreases. In fact, an increase of 15 degrees leads to a 50-percent decrease in server reliability. When servers reach these temperatures, they will start to perform poorly, and computers connected to the server will start to struggle as well. Keeping your servers cool is vital to maintain optimal performance and longevity.

EFFECTIVE METHODS TO KEEP SERVERS COOL

Use low-heat lighting

Incandescent lights produce too much heat that can raise the temperature of your server room. Go for low-heat options such as LED arrays and fluorescent tubes. Not only do they produce less heat, but they also provide better illumination compared to incandescent bulbs.

Ensure your server room is well ventilated

Server rooms are usually small and contain other hardware aside from servers. Without proper air circulation, all that hardware can raise the temperature of the room and your servers. Make sure the server room you choose has good air circulation. If you have no choice but to place your server in a small room, install a ventilation system that will let hot air escape from the room.

Use cooling fans

Cooling fans work well with a ventilation system to move hot air away from your servers. They are also a more affordable option to air conditioners. Placing a small and powerful fan next to your server's heat vent will keep it from overheating.

Air conditioning system

Installing an air conditioner in your server room is probably the best way to keep servers cool. Make sure that the air conditioner you choose is perfect for your server room. If you have a big server room, a small air conditioner won't do much to cool it. Also, don't be tempted to use residential air conditioners, as they are not designed to run 24/7/365. Go for industrial air conditioners instead. They can be a bit costly and require semi-annual maintenance checks, but industrial air conditioners will ensure your servers are constantly operating in cool temperatures.

Servers work best when kept at a cool temperature constantly. While manufacturers continue to build more resilient servers, proper care and maintenance still play a vital role in ensuring high operating quality and longevity. If you need more information about server management or have any other questions about your server setup, contact us today.

Jeff Dunham
Systems Engineer

Jeff Dunham has been working in and around technology since 2001. He got his start in the construction industry, working with installing Smart homes.

Prior to joining the RJ2, Jeff was an integral part of a small IT firm focused on both residential and SMB developing a wide variety of skill sets in variety of different Industries. Since joining RJ2 Technologies in 2017, as a Systems Engineer, Jeff has continued to develop his technical knowledge, to become a go to asset for physical infrastructure and telephonic needs.

As your needs grow and change over time, so do our features and capabilities. Endlessly scalable, flexible, and reliable, our cloud communications platform is truly future-proof, so you can focus on your business, and know that your communications solution will always remain relevant and competitive.

Feature Partner Product: SkyCom

Unified Communications

Unified Communications (UC) is the seamless integration of voice, presence, chat, data, applications, and other technologies that help drastically improve your communication processes and business productivity. Our software and services enable you to access your account and seamlessly incorporate our high-value cloud communication services.

Hosted PBX & VoIP

You want a reliable, high-quality phone system that simply works. And so you can focus on your business, and not your communications platform, our system adapts and adjusts to your needs and seamlessly works the way you do. Whether you have five (5) or five hundred (500) employees, we have a solution that meets your needs.

Virtual Auto Attendant & Mobile VoIP

Use auto attendants, cloud extensions and mailboxes to stay connected with your customers and employees—with all the features of a high end phone system. Best of all, you can seamlessly connect mobile and home workers with current or future office locations. It's all the same cloud communications framework, so you can scale up as needed, and connect based on your specific business requirements.

Benefits of Hybrid Clouds for SMBs

Hybrid clouds are a combination of private and public clouds. In private clouds, data and applications that require tighter controls are hosted either internally or privately in an off-site facility. Meanwhile, public clouds are managed externally by third-party providers with the express purpose of reducing a company's IT infrastructure.

Here are three significant advantages of hybrid cloud environments. ADAPTABILITY
Having the ability to choose between on-site or privately hosted cloud servers and public ones let you pair the right IT solution with the right job. For example, you can use the private cloud to store sensitive files while utilizing more robust computing resources from the public cloud to run resource-intensive applications.

COST EFFICIENCY AND SCALABILITY
Does your business struggle to meet seasonal demands? With a hybrid cloud solution, you'll be able to easily handle spikes in demand by migrating workloads from insufficient on-premises servers to scalable, pay-as-you-go cloud servers whenever needed, without incurring extra hardware and maintenance costs.

So if there are last-minute computing demands that your hardware can't support or if you're planning for future expansion, hybrid cloud solutions allow for on-demand increases or decreases in capacity.

SECURITY
Last but not least are the security advantages of a hybrid cloud solution. You can host sensitive data such as eCommerce details or an HR platform within the private cloud, where it will be protected by your security systems and kept under close watch. Meanwhile, routine forms and documents can be stored in the public cloud and protected by a trusted third-party.
To set up a hybrid cloud model based on your SMB's requirements and the providers available to you:

1. Employ one specialized cloud provider who offers comprehensive hybrid solutions.
2. Integrate the services of a private cloud provider with those of another public cloud provider.
3. Host a private cloud yourself and then incorporate a public cloud service into your infrastructure.

Our experts can help you transition to a hybrid cloud solution without interruption and huge costs. Contact us today to learn more about the benefits that a hybrid cloud can bring to your SMB.

December

"The great growling engine of change- technology"
- Alvin Toffler

3 Security Tips Everyone in Your Business Should Know

1. **Use a strong, unique password for every website. Yes, that means you'll have to install and use a password manager (we can help with that!).**
2. **Set your smartphone to lock after a short idle time, and set it to require authentication for unlocking. If at all possible, use something stronger than a simple-minded four-digit PIN.**
3. **Never click links in emails or texts that seem to come from your bank, the IRS, or any other institution. If you think the message might be valid, log into your account directly, without using the supplied link.**