



Securing Data in a Small to Medium-Size Business

A Practical Guide to Business Data Security

By Joseph A O'Donnell, Founder and President, PC SWAT

The Data Security Problem

Internet and email technologies represent critical tools in the small- and medium-size business, presenting opportunities for increased efficiency, flexibility, and communications. However, the same open architecture that allows such advantages also presents risks.

The 2006 *Computer Crime and Security Survey*, published by the FBI and Computer Security Institute, shows how security threats damage businesses such as yours:

- 88% of respondents detected computer security breaches within the last 12 months
- 74% acknowledged financial losses due to computer breaches

Local Backup Solutions

One of the problems is that businesses use tape backup, which is unreliable. Industry data shows that 50% of tape backups are not useable. Floppies and Zip drives can be worse. Businesses not using tape, CD, or Zip drives are usually relying on cheap sub-\$200 hard drives that have no internal cooling mechanism, making the average life span far shorter than high-quality hard drives, which can last for 10-20 years.

Off-Site Backup Strategies

Most businesses have no system in place, placing them at severe risk to natural disasters (fire, flood, etc.) and malicious viral infections that can destroy critical business data. For example, with no reliable off-site backup system in place, a fire could destroy a business. The cost to that business is incalculable, yet many take the risk.

Network Security Implementation

Some businesses rely on inexpensive and poorly made router hardware that lacks the necessary tools to protect their network and their data. Most small- to medium-size businesses are setup only to wait for network attacks, then hope their anti-virus software is working, is up to date and able to extinguish the threat. Unfortunately, there are viruses that can pass through an inexpensive router undetected and take control of a computer and cannot be extinguished by anti-virus software. All PC SWAT routers have up-to-date anti-virus, anti-spyware, and network intrusion detection, protecting your business in real-time before it is too late.

Software Encryption

Nearly every week, news reports another laptop stolen containing credit card numbers or a computer stolen with Social Security numbers and other customer data. If those computers employed data encryption solutions, then the data on those computers would be useless to the thieves. Unfortunately, too many businesses store sensitive data on computers that can be easily compromised by employees, hackers or thieves. PC SWAT offers hard disk sector-based and file or folder encryption solutions, ensuring that disk data remains encrypted and hack-proof.

Power Source Protection

The majority of small- to medium-size businesses use surge protectors to defend their businesses from power fluctuations, power loss, or damaging power spikes that can destroy a computer and all the data in it. Surge protectors are inadequate for protecting electronic equipment. PC SWAT deploys top of the line APC (American Power Conversion) power protection solutions, including customized software management setup that is tailored to your business.

Securing the Small to Medium Business

Conclusion

Most businesses concentrate on day-to-day issues and do not focus on long-term strategies to protect their data and their customers' private information. PC SWAT commits to providing you the best, most affordable technologies and expertise to secure data for the small- to medium-size business.

Deploying strategies such as those discussed here ensures that business data is secure and that businesses avoid a blow that brings a powerful end to profitability, and disastrous impacts on customers.

To find out more about how **PC SWAT** can help your business, contact us at 860-651-7283. Or email us at sales@pcswat.net.

Field Code Changed

