

Next Ten Tips for Data Breach Prevention and Response

Below are ten **MORE** tips that businesses of all sizes should consider in protecting the security and privacy of the data in their possession:

- 11 Use clear and consistent language in your data security policies:** Conflicting and vague policy language creates uncertainty as to cybersecurity requirements and breach response measures.
- 12 Regularly download and install software updates:** Periodic renewal of patches, firewalls and anti-virus maintains the robustness of system security and supports defenses that focus on reasonable efforts to protect data.
- 13 Segregate your system's databases and networks:** Compartmentalizing the databases and networks on your system ensures that a breach of one part of your system does not become a breach of the entire system.
- 14 Encrypt sensitive data:** Encryption of your company's sensitive data and your client/customer information protects against unauthorized access and use.
- 15 Regularly change passwords:** Requiring your employees to regularly change their passwords keeps access credentials from becoming stale and creates "moving targets" that are more difficult for hackers to hit.
- 16 Insulate sensitive data and network locations from public access points:** Have measures in place to ensure that guest Wi-Fi and public terminals cannot serve as backdoors into your company's network.
- 17 Suspend inactive accounts after termination or lack of use:** Periodic removal of unused accounts eliminates a potential blind spot in your system's security.
- 18 Establish procedures for the preservation of data when a breach occurs:** Resist the urge to format servers following a malware infection, so as to preserve important data regarding the extent of infection and possible exfiltration of data.
- 19 Require vendors to indemnify against breaches and other cyberliability:** Include provisions in your company's vendor agreements that provide for indemnification if the vendor is the source of a breach of your data.
- 20 Carry appropriate cyberliability insurance:** Insurers offer broad ranges of cyberliability insurance policies that cover many of the cybersecurity risks that businesses of all sizes face.



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