Cyber Security Checklist for Start-Up Businesses

TENDRING4 GROWTH TRAINING SUITE.

Secure Your Devices & Networks

- [ ] Ensure all business computers, smartphones and devices have **updated antivirus and firewall protection**.
- [ ] Enable **automatic software updates** for operating systems, applications and security software.
- [ ] Use **secured Wi-Fi networks**, avoid public networks for business activities and encrypt sensitive data.
- [ ] Set up a **VPN (Virtual Private Network)** for remote workers and secure communications.
- [ ] Use **unique, complex passwords** for all business accounts and systems.
- [ ] Enable **multi-factor authentication (MFA)** on all critical accounts (emails, banking, cloud services).

Protect Customer & Business Data

- [ ] Store customer and financial data in **encrypted** databases or cloud storage.
- [ ] Regularly back up critical business data to **secure, offsite locations**.
- [ ] Implement **GDPR compliance** if handling personal data.
- [ ] Limit data collection to **only necessary information** to reduce potential exposure.
- [ ] Use **email filtering solutions** to block spam and malware-infected emails.
- [ ] Set up **automated alerts** for login attempts from unknown devices or locations.

Strengthen Website & Online Presence Security

- [ ] Use **HTTPS encryption** with an SSL certificate for your website.
- [ ] Regularly update and patch **CMS platforms (WordPress, Shopify, etc.)** and plugins.
- [ ] Implement **secure payment gateways** (Stripe, PayPal etc.) for customer transactions.
- [ ] Enable **web application firewalls (WAF)** to prevent hacking attempts.
- [ ] Set **clear policies on device usage, internet access and data handling**.

Prepare for Cyber Threats & Recovery

- [ ] Conduct **regular security audits** to check vulnerabilities in your systems.
- [ ] Ensure a **data backup & disaster recovery plan** is in place.
- [ ] Have **cyber insurance** to mitigate financial risks from potential cyber attacks.
- [ ] Create a **business continuity plan** in case of security incidents.

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