



Cyber Attacks! After the Numbers

After insurance claims and tax deductions Sony, Home Depot and Target lost less than 1% of sales generated last year in the respective cyber attacks against them. Home Depot's losses amounted to around \$28,000,000 or .01% of their sales in 2014. There is a case to be made for not 'over-investing' in I.T. Security. This is not to say we should open the doors and wave a white flag to cyber attacks, but understand the risks to your network and how to secure it and include in your security strategy ongoing protection against hackers. Network Management is a first step that centralizes information and security policies that minimizes threats to a network.

Allocating resources to prevent cyber attacks is still a tough sell. What makes it more difficult is the realization that even properly managed systems can and will be hacked even with robust security measures in place. In spite of the past couple of sentences protecting against attacks is a necessary component of any I.T. security strategy.

Like fire Insurance - we all carry it yet very few of us ever use it. What happens after you know your data has been breached? There are any numbers of ways data can be lost, it's not just about cyber attacks, because after all, most of us won't be the victim of such a scheme. To truly ensure your business can survive any such loss a recovery plan should be in place. Having and knowing there is a plan to get your critical systems back online with access to your data after any such catastrophe is what counts.

Good ol' Data Recovery

When disaster does strike. The hours after your systems are compromised can be chaotic. There is plenty of information streaming in, but what is being done to bring your business back online? This part of the strategy is perhaps the most important to recovering from an attack (or a power outage or physical disaster). Developing a proper recovery strategy shrinks your recovery times from days or weeks to a matter of hours in most cases.

- Run routine back-ups of your data
- Properly recycle/destroy old IT assets (computers, servers, tapes, memory)
- Use redundant storage
- Test your back-ups (what good are they if they don't work?)
- Don't revolve a system restore around one person. This is a team effort.

There are many different types of back-ups. Here are a few;

Complete Back-up: like the name implies this is a back-up of all the data on your network. The advantage with a complete back-up is it is easier to restore when all the data is taken together. The disadvantages are it takes more memory space and more resources to complete the back-up. Also, how often are most files edited? Not very often in most cases, so restoring the same information over and over is, well, overkill.

Differential and Incremental Back-ups: These type are similar in that they back-up the difference after the last complete back-up. For example, a complete back-up is made on Sunday and on Monday a back-up is made of what changed over

Digital Advisor Ian Cohen says the basic role of the IT professional will continue to change as the impact of digital technology takes hold... Modern IT must be about assembling solutions and enabling business outcomes rather than just running 'things', such as desktops, servers or even mobile devices."

that day. On Tuesday, another differential back-up is run on changes to data made on Tuesday, etc. The disadvantage is restoring any one day's data will require back-ups from previous days as well. The advantage however is using fewer resources and less memory to run the differential back-up. The differences between differential and incremental back-ups have mostly to do with the timing and scope of the back-ups, but they essentially work the same way.

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