

**WIRE-IT**

CYBERSECURITY

# The Small Business Cybersecurity Checklist

15 steps to lock down your network before  
hackers find the open door.

A free resource from Wire-It | Omaha, NE

## Why Small Businesses Are the #1 Target

Small businesses are the #1 target for cyberattacks because they're easier to breach and often less prepared to respond. Roughly 43% of cyberattacks target small businesses, yet only about 14% are fully prepared to defend themselves, creating a clear gap attackers exploit. Many rely on outdated systems or "good enough" security, while still handling valuable data like customer information and financial records. The impact is serious—studies show around 60% of small businesses close within six months of a major cyberattack, making them a high-reward, low-resistance target.

**This checklist covers the 15 most critical steps to lock down your network.**

### 15-Step Cybersecurity Checklist

- 1. Commercial-grade firewall with threat intelligence
- 2. Endpoint protection (EDR) on every device
- 3. Multi-Factor Authentication on all accounts
- 4. Automated daily backups (off-site + cloud)
- 5. OS, firmware, and software patched within 48 hrs
- 6. Network segmented with VLANs (guest, IoT, cameras)
- 7. Quarterly phishing training + simulated campaigns
- 8. Unused ports, services, and default accounts disabled
- 9. Data encrypted at rest and in transit; full-disk on laptops
- 10. Incident Response Plan documented and tested
- 11. User access rights reviewed quarterly; revoke on departure
- 12. Email secured with SPF, DKIM, and DMARC
- 13. 24/7 network monitoring (SIEM or managed SOC)
- 14. Annual penetration test or vulnerability scan
- 15. Cyber liability insurance reviewed annually

*Wire-It Tip: 80% of breaches we respond to could have been prevented by the first 5 items. Start there.*

## Score Your Security Posture

Count how many of the 15 items your business has fully in place:

### 12-15 Strong Foundation

Ahead of most businesses. Stay vigilant, keep training, and reassess annually.

### 7-11 Gaps Exist

Basics covered but critical vulnerabilities remain. A professional security assessment is recommended.

### 0-6 High Risk

Exposed to the most common attack vectors. Immediate action needed to prevent costly breaches.

## Ready to Take the Next Step?

Run a free security gap scan with Wire-It today.

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