



AUSTBROKERS CYBER PRO

Five Key Tips on Keeping Organisations Cyber Safe

1. Ensure patches are up to date

Patch internet-facing software, operating systems and devices as many exploits used by threat actors are publicly known and there are patches or mitigation steps available. Where possible, use the latest versions of software and operating systems.

2. Implement multi factor authentication

Use multi-factor authentication across all remote access services. Multi-factor authentication needs to be applied to all internet-accessible remote access services, including:

web and cloud-based email, including Microsoft Office 365;

collaboration platforms;

virtual private network connections; and

remote desktop services.

3. Restrict administration privileges within networks

Admin accounts are the *keys to the kingdom*. Threat actors use these accounts to gain full access to information and systems. Therefore, it is critical to restrict administrative privileges to operating systems and applications based on user duties. Regularly revalidate the need for privileges. Don't use privileged accounts for reading emails and web browsing.

4. Back up on a daily basis

Ransomware incidents are difficult at best, however without up to date and regularly tested backups, organisations may have no choice but to consider paying a ransom in order to retrieve their data. It is critical that data of importance is backed up on a daily basis and restoration testing is carried out regularly. It is also important that at least one version of backups are stored in a disconnected environment, i.e. taken offline.

5. Engage in regular staff training on cyber risks

Ensure that regular staff training is occurring in relation to cyber risk and the threats of the digital environment your organisation operates within. This training should be deployed within the whole organisation, from C Suite level, through the entry level employees. It should include phishing simulation exercises to ensure employees across the organisation are well versed in detecting suspicious emails and links.