

# YIKES! CYBER ATTACKS SHIFT TOWARD SMALL BUSINESSES



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Cyber security may not have been small business owners' priority in years past, but in 2012, it HAS to be! Cyber criminals have shifted their target from Fortune 500 companies to small and mid-size businesses.

**"40% of All Targeted Attacks Today are Directed at Companies with Less than 500 Employees"** - Symantec, Oct 2011

Why this change? Simple... because it's easier. Weak security measures and, in many cases, no dedicated IT person makes smaller firms an easy target.

**"Many Small Businesses Fail to Take Even Fundamental Cyber Security Precautions"** - Tech Journal, Oct 2011

How do you know if your business is at risk? What are those fundamental security precautions you should be taking? Some of these questions might be going through your head when it comes to protecting your business. If you have concerns about whether or not your business is at risk, contact a local IT provider. Many providers, such as ourselves, are set up to offer free audits of your network and computer systems to identify any vulnerabilities or risks you might be facing.

Another good step to take is to review the security policies you currently have in place at your business. We have compiled a list of the Top Ten Security Steps for your Business, which are the top fundamental policies you should be practicing. The list is as follows:

1. Establish a Password Policy
2. Protect from Hackers
  - Install a business class firewall
  - Install a business class Wireless Access Point
3. Close Security Holes
4. Malware/Virus Protection
5. Secure Mobile Devices
6. Data Loss Protection
7. Data Access Restrictions
8. Contingency Plan
  - Data/Hardware/Software recovery
9. Manage Technology
  - Establish a Hardware/Software lifecycle
10. Train your Employees

With addressing these areas, you'll incorporate some security best practices into your business, allowing you to operate more efficiently and reducing risks. For more info on how to implement some of these security measures into your business contact SSE today!