

Operational resilience to cyber-attack

- how SMEs can minimise business disruption

Everyone thinks security. Keep the bad guys out. You've done all you can. Then something, or someone, lets you down and you're suddenly without data or IT systems.

Victims of cyber-attack are not always large corporates – they just get the media attention. In fact, if you're a small or medium-sized enterprise there's around a 50% chance that you'll experience a cyber-security breach¹.



Check your readiness for a cyber attack', UK SMEs urged



Analysis demonstrates that organisations with well-designed, and rehearsed, contingency plans survive cyber-attack far better than those without. This is what cyber 'resilience' is about.



Cyber incident planning

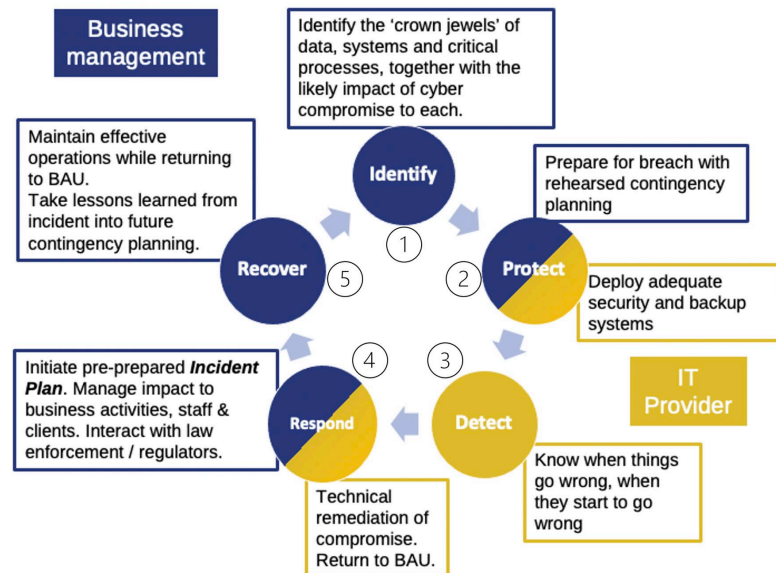
- hope for the best, prepare for the worst



Incident planning in the cyber world is fundamentally about keeping your the business running in an emergency. Having defined responsibilities and tested workarounds. Knowing exactly who to call upon to assist, who needs to be informed. Without a plan, day one will be chaos and the impact to your business far worse.

Although 'cyber' always involves technical compromise, the 'plan – react – learn' cycle depicted below is based on traditional risk models, and is very much owned by business management, not the IT team.

Simply put, stages 1 & 2 – **Identify & Plan**, are what the business needs to do in readiness for attack in order to maximise the effectiveness of stages 4 & 5 – **Respond & Recover**.



Increasing resilience can be broken down into a three-step process;

1. Identify key business processes and data;
2. Analyse the threats to those assets and the impact of their being compromised;
3. Prepare and rehearse incident plans to reduce potential damage to your business.

This need not be a complicated or onerous exercise for a SME as long as the approach is kept to scale.

If you would like to ask any questions about protecting your business from cyber-attack, and how we might assist, please feel free to get in touch for a no-obligation discussion.

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