

Cyber Security for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses and Entrepreneurs

It's Week Four of [National Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#) (NCSAM), which focuses on what emerging and established businesses can do to protect their organizations, customers, and employees. Small and medium-sized businesses are increasingly becoming targets for cyber criminals, who recognize that they may not have the awareness or resources to protect themselves. Since the assets required to protect these businesses from cyber risks aren't as readily available as they are to larger industries, they must educate themselves on cybersecurity best practices to protect their assets.

Entrepreneurs also face a unique cybersecurity threat as their data includes valuable intellectual property that could be worth much more than even they realize, in addition to sensitive personnel data and financial spreadsheets.

As part of National Security Awareness Month 2014, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the [Stop.Think.Connect. campaign](#) encourages all small and medium-sized businesses owners to practice safe Internet use. Here are a few [steps you can take](#) to protect your business:

- Use and regularly update anti-virus and anti-spyware software on all computers;
- Secure your Internet connection by using a firewall, encrypting information and hiding your Wi-Fi network; and
- Require that employees use strong passwords and regularly change them.

For more information about how to practice good cybersecurity with your business, visit <http://www.dhs.gov/stophinkconnect>. To learn more about NCSAM 2014, click <http://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month-2014>.