# Is Your IT provider Covering These 10 Cybersecurity Essentials?

*A checklist for small businesses*

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1. **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)**
   MFA is required for email, remote access, and critical business systems to help prevent unauthorized access.
2. **Endpoint Protection**
   All computers and servers have centrally managed security software that detects and responds to threats.
3. **Security Updates & Patching**
   Operating systems, applications, and network devices are regularly updated to address security vulnerabilities.
4. **Secure, Tested Backups**
   Critical business data is backed up automatically, protected from attackers, and routinely tested for recovery.
5. **Email & Phishing Protection**
   Email security tools block suspicious messages, and employees receive regular phishing awareness training.
6. **Firewall & Network Segmentation**
   Firewalls are securely managed, and networks are segmented to limit unauthorized access and the spread of threats.
7. **Regular User Account Reviews**
   Active employee accounts and permissions are reviewed regularly, and unnecessary or former employee access is removed.
8. **Administrative Account Reviews**
   Privileged accounts are routinely audited to ensure only authorized individuals have elevated system access.
9. **Security Logging & Data Retention**
   Important security activity is logged, reviewed, and retained according to established policies to support threat detection and investigation.
10. **Incident Response & Security Reviews**
    Your provider maintains an incident response plan and regularly assesses security risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities for improvement.

## How many of these are covered?

**10? Great start.** Make sure your provider can demonstrate these protections are working.

**Missing a few?** You may have security gaps, or you may simply need more visibility into what your provider is doing.

**Not sure?** That's worth a conversation. Your IT provider should be able to explain how your business is protected.

## Know where you stand before something goes wrong.

**Computer Technology Solutions (CTS) helps Minnesota businesses evaluate their cybersecurity protections and identify opportunities to strengthen them.**

**Schedule a No-Obligation Cybersecurity Checkup**

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