



Cybersecurity: What You Need to Know

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From [Home Depot](#) and [Target](#) to [Sony Pictures](#) and [Primera Blue Cross](#), businesses are oftentimes targets of cybercriminals. No industry is immune from significant data breaches. In most cyberattacks, the online criminals use malware to gain access into networks via compromised computers. Once in place, malware is used to take remote control of corporate computers—and can even be used in denial of service attacks, spam services and to spread the malware further into the networks.

The Best Defense is a Good Offense

Antivirus software, which is kept up to date, and a strong security awareness program are your best defense against these risks. Online users should be aware of the consequences of clicking on links in emails or browsing unsafe sites, which are the main distribution methods for malware. Always think twice about your online actions.

Types of Cyberattacks

- **Malware**, short for **malicious software**, is any software used to disrupt computer operation, gather sensitive information, or gain access to private computer systems.
- **Denial-of-service (DoS) attack** is an attempt to make a machine or network resource unavailable to its intended users.
- **Electronic spamming** is the use of electronic messaging systems to send unsolicited messages (**spam**), especially advertising, as well as sending messages repeatedly on the same site.

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