The Top 10 Ways Hackers Get Around Your Firewall And Anti-Virus To Rob You Blind

Cybercrime is at an all-time high, and hackers are setting their sights on small and medium businesses who are "low hanging fruit." Don't be their next victim! This report reveals the most common ways that hackers get in and how to protect yourself today.

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Tech Solutions, Inc.

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Are You A Sitting Duck?

You, the CEO of a small business, are under attack. Right now, extremely dangerous and well-funded cybercrime rings in China, Russia and the Ukraine are using sophisticated software systems to hack into thousands of small businesses like yours to steal credit cards, client information, and swindle money directly out of your bank account. Some are even being funded by their own government to attack American businesses.

Don't think you're in danger because you're "small" and not a big target like a J.P. Morgan or Home Depot? Think again. 82,000 NEW malware threats are being released every single day and HALF of the cyber-attacks occurring are aimed at small businesses; you just don't hear about it because it's kept quiet for fear of attracting bad PR, lawsuits, data-breach fines and out of sheer embarrassment.

In fact, the National Cyber Security Alliance reports that one in five small businesses have been victims of cybercrime in the last year – and that number is growing rapidly as more businesses utilize cloud computing, mobile devices and store more information online. You can't turn on the TV or read a newspaper without learning about the latest online data breach, and government fines and regulatory agencies are growing in number and severity. **Because of all of this, it's critical that you protect your business from these top 10 ways that hackers get into your systems.**

1. **They Take Advantage Of Poorly Trained Employees.** The #1 vulnerability for business networks are the employees using them. It's extremely common for an employee to infect an entire network by opening and clicking a phishing e-mail (that's an e-mail cleverly designed to look like a legitimate e-mail from a web site or vendor you trust). If they don't know how to spot infected e-mails or online scams, they could compromise your entire network.

2. **They Exploit Device Usage Outside Of Company Business.** You must maintain an Acceptable Use Policy that outlines how employees are permitted to use company-owned PCs, devices, software, Internet access and e-mail. We strongly recommend putting a policy in place that limits the web sites employees can access with work devices and Internet connectivity. Further, you have to enforce your policy with content-filtering software and firewalls. We can easily set up permissions and rules that will regulate what web sites your employees access and what they do online during company hours and with company-owned devices, giving certain users more "freedom" than others.

Having this type of policy is particularly important if your employees are using their own personal devices to access company e-mail and data.

If that employee is checking unregulated, personal e-mail on their own laptop that infects that laptop, it can be a gateway for a hacker to enter YOUR network. If that employee leaves, are you allowed to erase company data from their phone? If their phone is lost or stolen, are you permitted to remotely wipe the device – which would delete all of that employee's photos, videos, texts, etc. – to ensure YOUR clients' information isn't compromised?

Further, if the data in your organization is highly sensitive, such as patient records, credit card information, financial information and the like, you may not be legally permitted to allow employees to access it on devices that are not secured; but that doesn't mean an employee might not innocently "take work home." If it's a company-owned device, you need to detail what an employee can or cannot do with that device, including "rooting" or "jailbreaking" the device to circumvent security mechanisms you put in place.

3. **They Take Advantage Of WEAK Password Policies.** Passwords should be at least 8 characters and contain lowercase and uppercase letters, symbols and at least one number. On a cell phone, requiring a passcode to be entered will go a long way toward preventing a stolen device from being compromised. Again, this can be ENFORCED by your network administrator so employees don't get lazy and choose easy-to-guess passwords, putting your organization at risk.

4. **They Attack Networks That Are Not Properly Patched With The Latest Security Updates.** New vulnerabilities are frequently found in common software programs you are using, such as Microsoft Office; therefore it's critical you patch and update your systems frequently. If you're under a managed IT plan, this can all be automated for you so you don't have to worry about missing an important update.

5. **They Attack Networks With No Backups Or Simple Single Location Backups.** Simply having a solid, reliable backup can foil some of the most aggressive (and new) ransomware attacks, where a hacker locks up your files and holds them ransom until you pay a fee. If your files are backed up, you don't have to pay a crook to get them back. A good backup will also protect you against an employee accidentally (or intentionally!) deleting or overwriting files, natural disasters, fire, water damage, hardware failures and a host of other data-erasing disasters. Again, your backups should be AUTOMATED and monitored; the

worst time to test your backup is when you desperately need it to work!

6. **They Exploit Networks With Employee Installed Software.** One of the fastest ways cybercriminals access networks is by duping unsuspecting users to willfully download malicious software by embedding it within downloadable files, games or other "innocent"-looking apps. This can largely be prevented with a good firewall and employee training and monitoring.

7. **They Attack Inadequate Firewalls.** A firewall acts as the frontline defense against hackers blocking everything you haven't specifically allowed to enter (or leave) your computer network. But all firewalls need monitoring and maintenance, just like all devices on your network. This too should be done by your IT person or company as part of their regular, routine maintenance.

8. **They Attack Your Devices When You're Off The Office Network.** It's not uncommon for hackers to set up fake clones of public WiFi access points to try and get you to connect to THEIR WiFi over the legitimate, safe public one being made available to you. Before connecting, check with an employee of the store or location to verify the name of the WiFi they are providing. Next, NEVER access financial, medical or other sensitive data while on public WiFi. Also, don't shop online and enter your credit card information unless you're absolutely certain the connection point you're on is safe and secure.

9. **They Use Phishing E-mails To Fool You Into Thinking That You're Visiting A Legitimate Web Site.** A phishing e-mail is a bogus e-mail that is carefully designed to look like a legitimate request (or attached file) from a site you trust in an effort to get you to willingly give up your login information to a particular web site or to click and download a virus.

   Often these e-mails look 100% legitimate and show up in the form of a PDF (scanned document) or a UPS or FedEx tracking number, bank letter, Facebook alert, bank notification, etc. That's what makes these so dangerous – they LOOK exactly like a legitimate e-mail.

10. **They Use Social Engineering And Pretend To Be You.** This is a basic 21st-century tactic. Hackers pretend to be you to reset your passwords. In 2009, social engineers posed as Coca-Cola's CEO, persuading an exec to open an e-mail with software that infiltrated the network. In another scenario, hackers pretended to be a popular online blogger and got Apple to reset the author's iCloud password.

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Want Help Ensuring That Your Company Has All 10 Of These Holes Plugged?

If you are concerned about employees and the dangers of cybercriminals gaining access to your network, then call us about how we can implement a managed security plan for your business.

At no cost or obligation, we'll send one of our security consultants and a senior, certified technician to your office to conduct a free **Security And Backup Audit** of your company's overall network health to review and validate as many as **25** different data-loss and **security loopholes**, including small-print weasel clauses used by all 3rd-party cloud vendors, giving them zero responsibility or liability for backing up and securing your data. We'll also look for common places where security and backup get overlooked, such as mobile devices, laptops, tablets and home PCs. At the end of this free audit, you'll know:

- Is your network really and truly secured against the most devious cybercriminals? And if not, what do you need to do (at a minimum) to protect yourself now?

- Is your data backup TRULY backing up ALL the important files and data you would never want to lose? We'll also reveal exactly how long it would take to restore your files (most people are shocked to learn it will take much longer than they anticipated).

- Are your employees freely using the Internet to access gambling sites and porn, to look for other jobs and waste time shopping, or to check personal e-mail and social media sites? You know some of this is going on right now, but do you know to what extent?

- Are you accidentally violating any PCI, HIPAA or other data-privacy laws? New laws are being put in place frequently and it's easy to violate one without even being aware; however, you'd still have to suffer the bad PR and fines.

- Is your firewall and antivirus configured properly and up-to-date?

- Are your employees storing confidential and important information on unprotected cloud apps like Dropbox that are OUTSIDE of your backup?

I know it's natural to want to think, "We've got it covered." **Yet I can practically guarantee my team will find one or more ways your business is at serious risk for**

hacker attacks, data loss and extended downtime – I just see it all too often in the 35 businesses we've audited over the years.

Even if you have a trusted IT person or company who put your current network in place, it never hurts to get a 3rd party to validate nothing was overlooked. I have no one to protect and no reason to conceal or gloss over anything we find. If you want the straight truth, I'll report it to you.

You Are Under No Obligation To Do Or Buy Anything

I also want to be very clear that there are no expectations on our part for you to do or buy anything when you take us up on our **Free Security And Backup Audit**. As a matter of fact, I will give you my personal guarantee that you won't have to deal with a pushy, arrogant salesperson because I don't appreciate heavy sales pressure any more than you do.

Whether or not we're a right fit for you remains to be seen. If we are, we'll welcome the opportunity. But if not, we're still more than happy to give this free service to you.

You've spent a lifetime working hard to get where you are. You earned every penny and every client. Why risk losing it all? Get the facts and be certain your business, your reputation and your data are protected. Call us at 770.538.2900 or you can e-mail me personally at johnm@atstech.net.

Dedicated to serving you,

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E-mail: johnm@atstech.net

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Here's What A Few Of Our Clients Have Said:

Switching to ATS is the best decision we have made!

ATS is a very honest, hardworking company with set contract prices for unlimited support without any surprises. From the first meeting, John and his staff are more sincere than any other IT company we've worked with. We always get what we pay for and are treated fairly on price. Now we have an IT company that truly has our best interest at heart and values us as a client. ATS rebuilt our entire network and put out tremendous effort to do what they said they would do to make us a more efficient and smooth running company. Our efficiency and technology has improved drastically with ATS support. Their customer service is exceptional.

Major change is hard sometimes, but switching to ATS is the best decision we could have made. As a growing and successful IT company with many staff members to support their clients, ATS still makes you feel like you are their best customer. ATS went above and beyond and gave us cell phone numbers to reach key people if necessary and to feel confident we made the right decision. The integrity of their organization is obvious from the top down. I have been in business for 16 years and ATS is the best IT Company I have ever worked with and is now one of our top vendors. It is difficult to put everything in just a few words but I will gladly give a reference to anyone thinking of switching to ATS. Feel free to contact me at 404-245-5296.

Bryan Shaw
Owner/CEO
Shaw Stainless and Alloy

They have always go out of their way to keep us up and going

I don't think enough companies take the time, but I wanted to personally tell you that you have an incredible staff. Especially with regards to Jeremy, Jake and Lindsay. They have always went out of their way to keep us up and going, and that's with me completely understanding we do last minute requests. Please let them know any way possible we appreciate the personal attention, it honestly keeps us in a relationship with you guys.

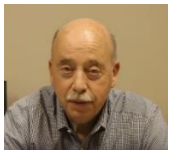
M. Simon Wilkes
Operations Manager
CEMB

They Reduce "IT Stress" And Fix Issues In 1/2 The Time

For the 10+ years I have worked with ATS, they have continued to improve their response times while providing personal attention to the customers' needs. They handle issues quickly though their remote support help desk and will dispatch engineers on site if needed.

For a company that might be on the fence about choosing ATS to manage their network – I would say:

Try them for a year – see if you don't find a reduction in problems as well as total costs – your employees with have less "IT Stress."



Jerry Bean
President
Computer Doctors of NE Georgia

Continually Provide Us With Cost Effective Solutions

The single biggest benefit since partnering with ATS for our network support has be response time; however followed closely by reliability improvement. Response time is quick and a live person is always available to assist.

Working with ATS, we feel John and his team really care about giving us the best cost effective solution. Very creative, often assisting in areas well beyond the original scope, including building historical databases for new ERP implementation.

Walk in our server room! See what other so called 'professionals' accomplished with great brochures. Every company boost they are great, best or other superlatives; however reality is unfortunately far different.
ATS showed us how good they are, not with a brochure.

Ray Bitzel
VP & GM
H-E Parts International - Construction Solutions

Fast Response and Knowledgeable – Takes Care of the Details!

"Over the many years that ATS has managed our network, we've loved having a local company that responds promptly when we have a problem. Everyone we have worked with there is knowledgeable, professional and helpful.

Besides being prompt in fixing any technology-related issues that crop up unexpectedly, ATS also oversees our licensing and equipment renewal through their "Technology Management Agreement." Our previous IT company did not keep up with our licensing (unbeknownst to us), which created all kinds of problems for us, so we really appreciate the fact that they are looking out for our company even when our day-to-day operations are running smoothly.

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You can't go wrong with ATS! They're local, smart, and **do what they say they'll do!** What more could you ask for?"

Amy Lawson
Executive Administrative Assistant
J. Lawson & Associates LLC.

They respond in 10 minutes

ATS provides one stop shopping for all your IT needs whether it be software, hardware or anything in between. They spend the time to explain issues to me and provide logical, easy to understand solutions.

ATS typically responds to a request for help within 10 minutes, sometime even faster.

Susan Kitchel,
President & Owner
Universal Resources

The ATS Team act as if they are "employees" of the company…

ATS has provided IT support to our company since 2011. I have been impressed because their Engineers act as if they are "employees' of the company and take ownership of situations. Their whole staff is approachable and treat users respectfully no matter how simple their problem.

ATS has always been able to support us with our 24/7 schedule to keep production systems running. A system outage at 1am or 6 pm, someone is always on the job.

Angella Waisner
IT Manager
AEC Narrow Fabrics

We don't stress about our computers with ATS on our Team

The biggest benefit to King Green in utilizing the services of ATS is that we can get back to doing what we do best, which is lawn care. We aren't computer or IT specialists, and it isn't

something we want to stress about. By having a company like ATS on our team, makes it easier to get back to doing business.

I can honestly say that we have not worked with another IT company. ATS is our first, and current. We haven't had any reason to shop the services and have been very pleased.

I would tell them to trust the product that ATS is selling and allow them to do what they do best, which is manage a companies' IT needs.

Jennifer Jorge
Chief Financial Officer
King Green

Reliable, Quick, Professional

ATS is a company that is here to stay. ATS knows the details of our systems and can answer any questions we have quickly.

ATS gives us the personal touch we did not find with other service providers. They are reliable, quick, and professional. Above all, we have become friends with the techs and office team.

Do it! The team at ATS is a partner right there with you for whatever you need, now and in the future. Call them today.

Mary H. Landry
Chief Financial Officer
King Green