SECURITY NEWS

CYBER SECURITY ADVISORY SERVICE

Steve Ripper and David Hodgdon discuss increased cyber threats to businesses and the minimum cyber security services you should have in place to mitigate your risk of a phishing scam or ransomware attack.. A Risk Assessment is at the forefront of helping....
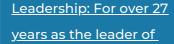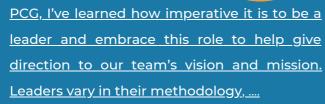
TECH TIP OF THE MONTH

Managing Security Technology costs has made it tougher for so many businesses to know what they truly need, understand the impact should a breach happen, and how to budget this in their year technology and business plan. ...

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Leadership: For over 27 years as the leader of PCG, I've learned how imperative it is to be a leader and embrace this role to help give direction to our team's vision and mission. Leaders vary in their methodology, ...

Newsletter Highlights

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CYBER SECURITY
ADVISORY SERVICE

...your business see where you currently stand (Gaps/Vulnerabilities) and what is needed from policies, communications, training, and the minimum Cyber services to protect your users and data. PCG is aware of the continued increase in cyber threats to businesses and we continue to advise you, our client, about the increased risks and the need for enhanced security. With the growing economic risks, PCG recommends a minimum cyber standard that we expect each of our clients to meet. We strongly recommend that our clients should expeditiously upgrade their systems, policies, and practices to bring them into compliance with these minimum standards.

The following are PCG's Cyber-Security Standard Recommendations:

- **Endpoint protection:** All computers on your corporate network must be protected by an antivirus agent. All servers, backup appliances, and workstations of principles and privileged users must also be protected by a threat detection agent (such as SentinelOne). In this context, privileged users are those with access to financial accounts or to other confidential information, as well as any users with admin access to the IT system.

- **Password policies:** You must comply with current password standards. Your password policy must be documented and distributed to users.

- **Microsoft domain:** Each client must operate a Microsoft domain (built on a server, in Microsoft Azure and/or Microsoft 365) with appropriate policies to enforce the password policies.

- **Network boundaries:** Each office with two or more computer users should be protected by a Firewall. Guest devices and computers (e.g., personal systems, cell phones) may only access a partitioned guest network.

- **Remote access:** All remote access to the corporate network should use a VPN connection or similar technology, or an approved secure web portal access method such as TeamViewer, GoToMyPC, or ScreenConnect.

- **RDP (Remote Desktop Protocol)** must be disabled except when needed and only accessed remotely via a VPN connection.

- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** All users should have MFA in place at a minimum for email access and for remote access to the corporate network, with MFA required by the client password policy above.

- **Email protection:** All email accounts should be protected by an approved email security program.

- **User training:** All computer users should receive computer security training including at a minimum annual training and quarterly phishing simulations.

- **Unsupported computers:** No computers with unsupported operating systems may attach to or be accessible from the corporate network. All computers on the network must be kept up to date for security patches.

- **Employee-owned computers:** If you allow employee-owned computers (or other non-company-owned computers) to access the client's corporate network, there must be an approved policy in place specifying your standards for these computers, limiting their access, or both.

- **Back-up:** You should subscribe to back-up services that include image back-ups of all servers and other systems storing data deemed critical to the business's operation, including cloud or other off-site backups with a minimum of three months retention.

- **Cyber insurance:** You should maintain cyber insurance covering both the insured and third-party claims, with a limit of no less than $1,000,000.00 per occurrence. We can review your policy to make sure you are properly covered

Cyber Security Advisory Services

Steve Ripper
Senior Network Engineer

pcgit
Advanced IT Support

Dave Hodgdon

CEO PCGit

… process and communications with their team. I embrace and care about the PCG team and want to engage them as leaders to help our company with our journey.

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus". Martin Luther King, Jr. It's very true, that "people buy into people". When a great leader has good morals and principles as well as a respectable reputation, people will warm to this person more naturally. In general, people will be more likely to do business with someone they know, like, and trust.

A true Leader empowers their team and understands that effective teamwork comes from instilling confidence within them. For instance, a Boss may be authoritative and blame others while a Leader will respect others and correct mistakes in a manner that does not belittle them. A Boss does not like to take responsibility for any mistakes and may take advantage of their status. A Leader, however, asks questions and gives respect to others.

I have always tried to be inspirational and motivational. I always encourage others to become the best version of themselves. In turn, they will empower others to do the same.

At PCG, we have created a culture with various leadership teams that allows employees to thrive and be part of the decision process for our service delivery, security practice, and the goals of the business for the next 1-5 years.

Breakfast Technology Series:

"Protecting your Business from a Phishing Scam or Ransomware Attack"

Join PCG and our Security Panel to review the current Cyber-Security landscape and what your company can do to help protect your data, keep your network running, and protect your company's reputation. From your Servers, Data, Infrastructure, PCs, and users, our panel will discuss the current trends and how these "Bad actors" are working to get to your data, and the steps you can take to help mitigate this risk. The goal is to have a plan so your team is ready should something happen and make sure you have deployed the right services for your company/industry to protect your company's data and reputation.

Join us Thursday, April 6th from 8 AM to 9:00 AM

Learn More

Welcome to the PCG family

VOLK PAXIT

BR
BENUCK & RAINEY

CSG
Consolidated Services Group

TECH TIP
Managing Cloud Technology Costs

PROTECT YOUR DATA

Security and Cyber Security Technology costs can be difficult to manage and costly to have a full-fledged Cyber security plan in place. The first step in controlling your Security and Cyber Security costs is understanding the various compliant requirements you need to have in place within your business segment. Next, review your security current gaps and vulnerabilities in which cyber criminals could penetrate your network or fake your users into giving them credentials.

What Security subscriptions does your company currently have in place? What is included in these Security subscriptions, and how the technology is currently being used, if at all.

Here are some suggestions for inventorying your organization's security technology costs. Get a complete inventory of all the possible security subscriptions you have in place from all your users/departments. This will also allow you to start your company's Security blueprint and roadmap for cyber security services and current costs. Verify you have the right security services in place to protect your users, data, and reputation.

Do you know if your staff is using these services and features? (Ex. Password Manager or MFA). If you can't answer these questions, reach out to your PCG Client Success Manager to review these security features, and reporting. Account for all your users. There is no need to pay for a subscription for an employee that is no longer there. Verify each user is on the right security plan/subscription.

What solution are you using for your Password manager or MFA "Multi-Factor Authentication? It is not unusual for companies and users to have multiple solutions for a Password Manager such as Keeper, Last Pass, or 1st Pass. This means you could be paying for multiple security services that do the same thing.
Not only is this confusing, but managing multiple security solutions can also become a security nightmare to document. Make sure your current Managed Service Provider documents your Security services and reviews these with you yearly to optimize your investment and make sure you are also protecting your most valuable asset, "Your Data"!
The best way to review your Cyber security business needs is to do a yearly Risk Assessment. This reviews your company's current Security and Cyber Security stance and will flush out where your weaknesses, gaps and vulnerabilities.
To learn more, please reach out to one of PCG's Security Experts.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

Surveillance/Security Camera and Door Access Solutions

PCG has found that the Ubiquiti family of surveillance, security cameras, POE Switches, and Door access solutions is a great value for your company to help manage and control your building, inventory, and staff. Ubiquiti door access system simplifies the access to your building and manages those users that need to enter certain parts of your building.

Ubiquiti's UniFi Protect offers all the flexibility one would need for their business security needs. The Ubiquiti Unifi Protect family will help secure your building and grant door access to your employees that need these resources. Begin with an assessment of what you expect in Camera Security and Door Access System. Then, one of our Ubiquiti experts can help you develop a plan that meets your desired outcome and budget. Ubiquiti offers great flexibility and allows for multiple options based on your needs. There are several indoor and outdoor camera options from the Bullet, Dome, and 360-degree Dome to get the needed viewing you desire to protect your building, inventory, and people. The number of cameras and how long you want to have access to your recordings will dictate the type of DVR "Digital Video Recorder" and storage that you will need. Each of these cameras will require a dedicated wiring run and a Managed POE Switch to power them.

Simply Scalable Security

To learn more, please visit
https://www.pcgit.com/it-solutions/

Do you need help getting a handle on your technology cloud spend?

CONTACT US

Contact us today for help making the best cloud decisions for your organization.

Jason Gilbert

Jason Gilbert is an exemplary leader at PCG. He hits the mark with PCG's core values "Integrity, Teamwork, Communications, and Ownership". With decades of technical and management skills, Jason came to PCG as our Service Manager and now has been promoted to our Leadership Team as Director of IT Services. Jason's attention to detail and understanding of service workflows and metrics has allowed PCG to dramatically improve our Service Delivery and Client Satisfaction Survey results. Jason is responsible for and manages the technical staff and the various IT Services we offer. If you want documentation done right, then Jason is the image of this. Jason's demeanor and ability to deal with technical challenges, escalations, and client issues is a home run for PCG. His communication style and calm manner give our clients the handholding and accountability they need in knowing that we have them responsibly covered. Jason embraces our culture and helps promote and bring our core values to life every day at PCG. If you need a process, diagram, or a way to streamline a workflow, Jason will get this done for you.

PCGIT NEW HIRE

David Silva

Technician/Help Desk

Dave brings PCG and our clients the best possible experience and customer service we could ask for in a Level 1 Technician and Help Desk Advisor. Dave has picked up our processes and embraces our culture here at PCG. His dedication to each client's service ticket and details to our documentation system has helped our team provide a better overall experience with our clients. Dave has proven that he's a team player as he continues to grow with his technical skillset, desire to learn, and the communications that give our clients a world-class experience. We are excited to have Dave as part of our team and know that our clients will enjoy his assistance with your technical requests and solving your IT issues and problems.