

# AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES NEED TO MAKE ONLINE SECURITY A PRIORITY



**Small and medium businesses are the heart of the Australian economy**

There are over **2 million** small to medium businesses

*compared to just*

**3,614** large businesses (200+ employees)

**Using the internet is important for businesses to get the job done**



**94.7%** of businesses have internet access



**1 in 5** use paid cloud computing services

**85%** of businesses use the internet for financial activities



**47.1%** have a web presence



**56%** place orders via the internet

**34%** of businesses use the internet to communicate\*

\*Excludes email



Banking



Invoicing



Payments



**30.8%** have a social media presence



**32.2%** receive orders via the internet

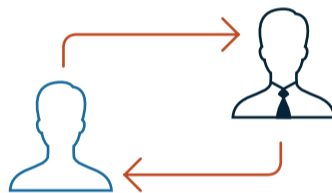


Instant messaging



VoIP

**19.4% of businesses** use the internet to share information or data with customers



**15.5% of businesses** use the internet to share information or data with other businesses or organisations

## Current business security practices

- Install anti-virus software **59%**
- Back up data and hold it off-site **27%**
- Have a data recovery plan in place **21%**
- Encrypt data **17%**



## Barriers and challenges to better online security

- 44%** Lack of budget
- 35%** Lack of time
- 26%** Lack of risk awareness
- 14%** Lack of employee training

**Although 55% of businesses describe their online information as important; they identified their business priorities as:**

- 1** Maintaining cash flow (35%)
- 2** Competition (12%)
- 3** Regulation/legislation/policy changes (10%)
- 4** Natural disasters (4%)
- 5** Theft or damage of online information or data (2%)

## What you can do to protect your business



### Strong passwords

Make passwords ten characters or more and change them regularly. Never use the same password on more than one system or application.



### Back up your data

Back up your data to a removable storage device such as a hard drive, or back up to a cloud service.



### Awareness

Sign up to the Stay Smart Online Alert service to receive information on the latest threats and scams.



### Confidentiality

Know who has access to your business data. Limit the access to a 'need to know' basis to prevent a leak of confidential information.



### Device security

Ensure staff keep their mobile devices locked when not in use. Do not send confidential data over unsecure wi-fi networks.



Australian Government Initiative  
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