

Small Business News & Notes

Online Security: A Big Issue For Small Businesses

(NAPSA)—For a small business, online access and communication via broadband may offer big benefits—but what about the risks?

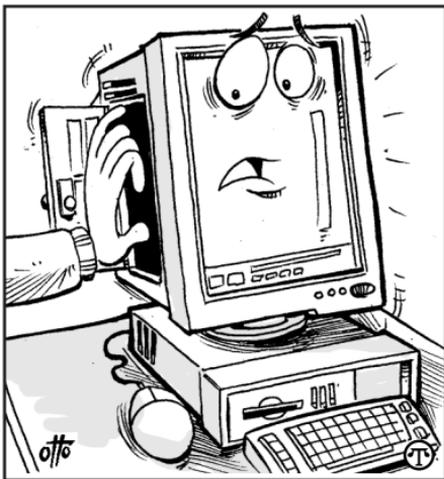
Hacking, viruses and worms are just a few of the risks a company faces, often unknowingly, every time an employee connects to the Internet. Connecting to the Internet is like opening your front door...the entire time that door is open, just about anyone, or anything, can pass through if the proper safeguards aren't in place.

Hackers, viruses, worms and the like, don't discriminate by company size: large or small, they are constantly trying to find a way into your business.

If you want to prevent unauthorized access to your computers, start with the basics:

- **Install a Firewall.** A firewall acts as a security guard at the "door" to the Internet. It examines and protects all communications (e-mail, Web pages, file downloads, etc.) attempting to pass between the Internet and your network. A firewall should always be your first line of defense.

- **Secure Remote Access Connections.** If you, or any of your employees need to connect to your business from a remote location, a VPN, or Virtual Private Network, might be right for you. VPNs ensure that communications traveling over the Internet are secure by encrypting information before it hits cyber-space, making it unreadable to hackers and others and ensuring its privacy.



According to experts, many small businesses leave the "door wide open" to hackers when connecting with the Internet.

- **Protect Against Viruses.** Anti-virus software screens incoming data for viruses that can infect your computer and do permanent damage—e-mail is the most common way they get in—and stops virus threats before they can infect your computer.

- **Don't forget:** If you connect to the Internet via broadband, and you don't have the right security in place, it increases the chance your company will become the victim of hackers, worms and viruses.

To cover all the security basics in one simple step, consider purchasing a multi-purpose security device that contains all of the basics outlined above, such as a CheckPointSafe@security appliance.

For more information visit www.checkpoint.com/products.