Business System Solutions

THE BSS ADVISOR

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Guard Your Personal Accounts to Save Your Business

by Anisa Williams, BSS Staff

91%. That is a large (and unfortunately accurate) number that represents total number of cyberattacks, initiated by an innocent person who clicked a link or shared sensitive information from a phishing email, according to KnowBe4.

Wayward protection for personal devices

We have these amazing, powerful computers in our pockets (literally) and can work anywhere from our business computers. It's common practice to do personal tasks on our work computers as it's relatively safe – IT has your back, right? But it's also common practice to conduct business on our personal computers or phones, even though (admit it!) you may not recall the last time you changed your email password, or aren't sure if you have anti-virus software on your phone.

One click to cyber crime

Many high-profile breaches, the kind that expose millions or billions of user accounts to criminals, start with a phishing email to their target's personal accounts. Yahoo, Target, and Facebook, and Google have all

(Continued on Next Page)

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Caretakers of Your Productivity.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests by each of you to the interests of others."

Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

(Continued from page 1)

experienced massive data breaches due to a single compromised account from a phishing email.

Sony’s very visible data leak of over 100 Terabytes of confidential company information at a cost of $100 million was because phishers pretended to be colleagues of top-level employees. Specifically, they used a fake Apple ID verification email, combined with posted LinkedIn data, to find matching passwords from personal accounts on the Sony network.

LastPass, a popular password manager, experienced not one but two breaches that started by a click. The hackers targeted a DevOps Engineer who had access to the entire LastPass infrastructure. The Engineer logged into a false movie streaming website – a personal account – on his corporate computer and essentially gave hackers full access. The hackers impersonated the Engineer and caused havoc over six months: they copied source code, backups of customer databases, and encryption keys. Hackers also overwrote logs, performed anti-forensic activities to cover their tracks, and installed keyloggers on computers. All in all, the LastPass breaches cost millions for them and their customers millions if not billions of stolen crypto wallets and access to banking and credit cards.

Protect your personal accounts

The majority of accounts are compromised because of reused or too-simple passwords. Experts recommend:

- Don’t mix personal and business accounts on the same device.
- Don’t reuse passwords or make them too simple or short.
- Update your personal accounts unique passwords or passkeys.
- Add Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) to all personal accounts.
- Use a different password manager than your work.
- Use extreme caution when sharing your personal information online or by phone.
- Keep your personal devices up to date with security patches and antivirus antimalware.

(Continued from page 2)

Protecting your personal accounts and devices can protect your business from threats. Phishing and targeted phishing attacks can destroy a company financially and reputationally. If something seems suspicious when you are trying to login to a personal account, don't put in your credentials.

And if you experience some suspicious computer behavior or get MFA requests when you're not logging in on your work computer, give us a call and we can check it out. BSS clients are extra protected with our advanced Managed Detection and Response software from unusual network behavior (typical of a cyber criminal). It will be notice and fixed even before you notice something is unusual. □

Sources

https://www.yeoandyeo.com/resource/91-of-cyberattacks-begin-with-a-phishing-email
https://www.hempsteadny.gov/635/Famous-Phishing-Incidents-from-History
https://www.cybersecuritydive.com/news/lastpass-cyberattack-timeline/643958/
https://www.aba.com/advocacy/community-programs/consumer-resources/protect-your-money/phishing

Microsoft 365 Grants for Non-Profits Licensing is Cancelled

BSS has been informed that Microsoft is cancelling the grant licensing that gives 10 free licenses to non-profit organizations. Simply, it means that any non-profit organization that has been using the 10 free Microsoft 365 Business Premium or Office 365 E1 licenses will be required to change to a different license type, which may have a fee.

This will take effect on July 1, 2025 with current licensing expiring on April 1, 2026. Microsoft is granting discounted rates for non-profit organizations for their existing licensing options. They will continue to offer up to 300 MS 365 Business Basic licenses per organization at up to 75% off, among discounts of other Microsoft products.

Change licensing at next renewal

If you have been a grant recipient and received 10 free licenses, other licenses will need to be selected for your organization the next time Microsoft licenses come up for renewal. If new licenses are not selected before the renewal deadline, the 10 licenses will expire and you will not be able to use the Microsoft 365 or Office products.

photo by GOluvicecream from Pixabay

Your Account Manager will work with you before that deadline to review the options for changing to a different license and what those fees will be.

If you have questions about these changes, please reach out to your Account Manager or send a message to *support@bssconsulting.com* to start the conversation.

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4:00 - 6:00 pm
1211 Cumberland Ave., West Lafayette

RSVP by August 13 at
https://BSS-30th-Indiana.eventbrite.com