

CYBERSECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT IN SMALL ORGANIZATIONS

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Abstract

Cybersecurity risk management has become a critical issue for small organizations due to the rapid adoption of digital technologies and the increasing frequency of cyberattacks. Small organizations often lack sufficient financial resources, skilled personnel, and formal security policies, making them attractive targets for cybercriminals. This study examines cybersecurity risks, existing management practices, and challenges faced by small organizations. Using an extensive literature review and qualitative methodology, the research identifies effective and affordable risk management strategies. Findings indicate that cybersecurity awareness, basic technical controls, and management commitment significantly reduce cyber risks. The study recommends simplified frameworks aligned with international standards such as NIST and ISO/IEC 27001 to enhance cybersecurity resilience in small organizations.

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Literature Review

Existing literature emphasizes that small organizations are increasingly targeted by cybercriminals due to weak security controls (Anderson, 2021). Studies based on the NIST Cybersecurity Framework highlight the importance of identify, protect, detect, respond, and recover functions. ISO/IEC 27001 promotes a risk-based approach to information security management. However, researchers argue that these frameworks are often complex for small organizations, necessitating simplified and cost-effective implementations.

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Methodology

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Results and Discussion

The results reveal that phishing and malware attacks are the most prevalent cybersecurity threats affecting small organizations. Organizations with limited cybersecurity awareness experience higher incident rates. The discussion shows that basic controls such as firewalls, antivirus software, access control, and employee training significantly reduce cyber risks. These findings are consistent with previous studies (Smith, 2022).

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Recommendations

It is recommended that small organizations develop formal cybersecurity policies, conduct regular staff training, implement access control mechanisms, and perform routine risk assessments. Adoption of simplified NIST or ISO-based frameworks is encouraged. Management should allocate dedicated resources for cybersecurity activities.

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Conclusion

Cybersecurity risk management is essential for the sustainability and growth of small organizations. Despite resource limitations, effective cybersecurity can be achieved through awareness, basic controls, and management commitment. This study demonstrates that structured yet simplified risk management approaches significantly enhance organizational resilience against cyber threats.

References

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