Protecting Personal Information – Guides for Businesses

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**Identity Theft – Before it happens**

A featured article “Start with Security: A Guide for Business” is on the website of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC); which lists 10 practical lessons businesses can learn from the FTC’s 50+ data security settlements (Start with Security A Guide for Business - Federal Trade Commission, 2015). It presents the following list in detail:

1. Start with security.

2. Control access to data sensibly.

3. Require secure passwords and authentication.

4. Store sensitive personal information securely and protect it during transmission.

5. Segment your network and monitor who’s trying to get in and out.

6. Secure remote access to your network.

7. Apply sound security practices when developing new products.

8. Make sure your service providers implement reasonable security measures.

9. Put procedures in place to keep your security current and address vulnerabilities that may arise.

10. Secure paper, physical media, and devices.

Businesses are entrusted with the care of sensitive data regarding their customers, clients, partners, and employees. When they find out that the sensitive data has been compromised they must stop the attack and mitigate the loss. A featured article “Information Compromise and the Risk of Identity Theft: Guidance for Your Business” is on the website of the FTC; which outlines what steps to take and who to contact (Information Compromise and the Risk of Identity Theft Guidance for Your Business - Federal Trade Commission, 2015).

The FTC offers advice for businesses about building security into products connected to the Internet of Things, including proper authentication, reasonable security measures, and carefully considered default settings, on their website (Careful Connections Building Security in the Internet of Things - Federal Trade Commission, 2015).

The FTC also offers dozens of tips for Mobile App Developers in business. It recommends to start with security by asking questions, such as “How does your app size up?” or “Have you built security in from the start?” and more (Mobile App Developers Start with Security Federal Trade Commission, 2015).

**Thesis Peer Review**

This thesis paper was reviewed by a peer. The review was acknowledged with the following comment: Wenona Fetick who says, “Many of the security breaches that are in the news are caused by a vulnerability in the software or a system. This is good research in that area.”

# References

*Careful Connections Building Security in the Internet of Things - Federal Trade Commission.* (2015, Nov 10). Retrieved from https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/careful-connections-building-security-internet-things

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