

CYBERSECURITY CHECKLIST

FOR ACCOUNTANTS



- **Complexity:** Use a mix of uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and special characters.
- **Password Managers:** Encourage the use of reputable password management tools.
- **Regular Changes:** Update passwords every 60-90 days.

Password Policies



- **Activate MFA:** Use for all accounting software, email accounts, and client portals.
- **Encourage Clients:** Advise clients to also use MFA for their financial accounts.

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)



- **VPN (Virtual Private Network):** Ensure a secure connection when accessing client data remotely.
- **Wi-Fi Security:** Use strong encryption (WPA3) for office networks and avoid public Wi-Fi.

Secure Network and Connection



- **Spam Filters:** Install advanced spam filters to block phishing emails.
- **Encrypted Communication:** Use email encryption when sending sensitive data.

Email Security



- **Real-time Monitoring:** Detect and counteract malicious activity instantly.
- **Whitelisting:** Only approved applications should run on company computers.

Advanced Firewall/Endpoint Security



- **Regular Backups:** Daily backup of client data.
- **Offsite Storage:** Use secure cloud storage or physical offsite storage solutions.

Robust Backup Strategy



- **Patch Management:** Regularly update accounting software, operating systems, and applications.

Regular Software Updates



- **End-to-end Encryption:** Ensure client data remains encrypted during transit and at rest.
- **Expiration on Access Links:** Time-bound access for shared financial documents.

Secure Client Portals



- **Have a Plan:** Outline steps to take in case of a security incident.
- **Regular Drills:** Simulate cybersecurity incidents to test and refine the plan.

Incident Response Plan



PROTECTION FIRST:

Prioritizing cybersecurity ensures the **trustworthiness** of your accounting services and the **safety** of client data!



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