



Cybersecurity Glossary of Terms

Protect Your Business: Essential Cybersecurity



AwareSecureCo

Terms You Should Know

- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)**

- **Definition:** A security process requiring two or more verification methods (e.g., password + code) to access an account.
- **Why It Matters:** Adds an extra layer of security, reducing the risk of unauthorized access.

- **Phishing**

- **Definition:** A cyberattack where attackers trick users into providing sensitive information through fake emails, messages, or websites.
- **Why It Matters:** Phishing is one of the most common ways businesses get hacked—training employees to spot phishing attempts is critical.

- **Firewall**

- **Definition:** A security tool that filters and blocks unauthorized network traffic.
- **Why It Matters:** Protects company systems from cyber threats by blocking malicious activity.

- **Ransomware**

- **Definition:** Malicious software that locks files or systems and demands a ransom for their release.
- **Why It Matters:** Ransomware attacks can cripple businesses, leading to financial and reputational damage.

- **Social Engineering**

- **Definition:** A manipulation technique where attackers trick individuals into revealing confidential information.
- **Why It Matters:** Cybercriminals often exploit human psychology rather than technical vulnerabilities to gain access to sensitive data.

- **Encryption**

- **Definition:** The process of converting data into a coded format to prevent unauthorized access.
- **Why It Matters:** Protects sensitive information from hackers, especially during data transmission.



- **VPN (Virtual Private Network)**

- **Definition:** A tool that encrypts internet traffic, making online activities more private and secure.
 - **Why It Matters:** Essential for securing remote work and protecting company data from cyber threats.
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- **Zero Trust Security**

- **Definition:** A security model that requires continuous verification for all users and devices, assuming no one is automatically trusted.
 - **Why It Matters:** Prevents unauthorized access by ensuring only verified users can access business systems.
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- **Brute Force Attack**

- **Definition:** A hacking method where attackers try multiple password combinations until they guess correctly
 - **Why It Matters:** Weak passwords make businesses an easy target—using strong, unique passwords helps prevent this type of attack.
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- **Malware**

- **Definition:** Malicious software designed to harm or exploit systems, including viruses, worms, and spyware.
 - **Why It Matters:** Can cause system failures, steal data, and allow attackers to control company devices.
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- **Patch Management**

- **Definition:** The process of updating software to fix security vulnerabilities.
 - **Why It Matters:** Regular updates prevent cybercriminals from exploiting outdated systems.
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- **Insider Threat**

- **Definition:** A security risk posed by employees, contractors, or vendors who intentionally or unintentionally compromise company security.
 - **Why It Matters:** Insider threats account for a significant number of security incidents, making employee awareness crucial.
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- **Data Breach**

- **Definition:** An incident where sensitive information is accessed or exposed without authorization.
- **Why It Matters:** Data breaches can lead to financial loss, legal issues, and reputational damage for businesses.

