

Protecting your charity or business in the digital age



Understanding Cyber Insurance

With recent high profile news headlines focusing on cyber-attacks which have targeted big businesses and financial institutions, charities and small businesses could wrongly assume that this issue does not affect them. Sadly it could.

At Unity Insurance Services we're aware of this risk to our customers and know that charities, not-for-profit organisations and small businesses are not immune to cyber-attacks, data breaches, and their consequences. Here are some guidance points to help.

Are you at risk?

You should ask yourself, if your organisation:

- Holds sensitive personal data electronically, such as names, addresses or banking information?
- Is dependent on its computer systems to operate?
- Has a website?
- Accepts payments online or by card?

If so, it is important that you address this growing area of risk and take the necessary precautions.

What are cyber risks?

Cyber risks can fall into one of three broad categories:

1. Direct, malicious cyber-attacks
2. Accidental information loss or misuse, or
3. Physical system failures.

Examples of cyber risks charities may face could include:

- A laptop being stolen which holds unencrypted sensitive data on children and young people.
- A virus in your computer network resulting from opening a suspicious email attachment.
- A hacker closing or interfering with your organisation's website.

Simple actions you should take include:

- Regularly update software and take specialist advice if needed.
- Encrypt all portable devices.
- Train staff so that they are aware of potential threats and are vigilant in not handing over sensitive data or allowing malware into the network.
- Ensure passwords are secure and regularly changed. (A useful tip is to use the £ sign in passwords as most hackers operate a US keyboard which does not have one.)
- Consider making all of your passwords stronger with three random words.
- Question the security of cloud and other service providers.
- Incorporate threat of breaches or incidents (e.g. denial of service) into your Business Continuity Plans.

What cyber risks can insurance cover?

Not all cyber risks can be anticipated or prevented. An effective insurance policy will respond to cyber incidents and should form part of your risk management.

If you're the victim of cybercrime, a [Cyber Liability Insurance policy](#) could cover the costs associated with security or privacy breaches or loss of third-party data that you may hold and cyber extortion.

In many cases, traditional insurance policies may not cover losses involving information systems, and not all Cyber Liability Insurance policies are the same so please do take time to ensure that you're correctly covered.

We're here to help

As a specialist insurance broker who understands charities, voluntary organisations and businesses and also understands their technology and data risks, we can arrange the right [cyber liability cover](#) for your organisation.

Call us to chat through your needs on:

0345 040 7702

[unityins.co.uk](https://www.unityins.co.uk)



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