

LAPTOP AND PC SECURITY



Threat: Ransomware, malware or catastrophic system failure
Potential impact: Loss of business data and/or interruption of business
Defence: Back-up data regularly via the Cloud, to a USB or other offline media, or a commercial data store service provider



Threat: Theft of your PC or Laptop
Potential impact: Loss of your identity, loss of sensitive personal data, and misuse of that data to commit other scams in your name
Defence: Secure the data on your hard drive with encryption software, using a strong password to protect the encryption software. Where possible set up 'kill package' to remotely disable the device in the event of its theft



Threat: Computer enabled fraud or data theft
Potential impact: Loss of data and/or unauthorised financial transactions
Defence: Employ reputable Anti-Virus & Anti-Malware software, and set it to check all incoming traffic, including a daily computer wide check; regularly patch both operating systems and applications



Threat: Unauthorised access to your device
Potential impact: Your logon identity or your data can be stolen without your immediate knowledge, and emails sent in your name
Defence: Always use a strong password when logging on, and set it to automatically screen lock after a short time. Always log off when you leave the machine unattended. Do not use 'post-its' to record your passwords



Threat: Interception of your communication, particularly in public places
Potential impact: Theft of your identity, loss of sensitive personal data, and unobserved criminal use of your device
Defence: Invest in Virtual Private Network (encrypted) software, ensuring it is always used when you are in a public place



Threat: Spyware
Potential impact: You and your operations can be viewed remotely, your picture stolen & misused, or you become an easier target for scammers
Defence: Do not open untrusted email links; insert unknown USB devices into your PC/Laptop without first checking them for infection; disable your IP camera and microphone except when they are being used by you; at the very least use masking tape to block your Laptop's camera