

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. Here is the second part of the “How to protect your business” article.

5. Protect against natural disasters.

A disaster can't be prevented, but unnecessary harm to your business as a result of disasters can be minimized. Formulate – then communicate – a disaster plan that assumes multiple scenarios.

6. Use Antivirus wisely.

It's important to deploy antivirus software on all systems and enforce an antivirus policy that ensures automated signature updates.

7. Set up virtual private network (VPN) capability.

One of the most reliable ways to establish a secure connection between mobile workers and the office is through a VPN. VPNs enable access behind the firewall through any public Internet connection with the use of authentication and encryption technology.

8. Deploy a Firewall.

A firewall – hardware or software – is an indispensable component of your business protection program. Companies with a DSL modem can use the DSL router as a firewall. Most companies, however, will want to deploy a firewall server or an integrated firewall.

9. Use strong passwords.

The chain of business protection is only as strong as its weakest link. Often, that weakest link is bad password management.

10. Use the latest WLAN standard.

There are big differences between older and newer wireless LAN standards. Make sure your network and PCs support the 802.11g standard for maximum performance and compatibility.

Be implementing these 10 items, you should have a safe, reliable network.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.