

## How to Deter Computer Hackers

Proper management of its computers is essential to the growth and survival of a company. A business manager can improve security—as well as provide some more peace of mind—by following a few basic steps. For example:

- \*Take initial precautions. Whenever a new computer is bought online, apply operating systems updates, install an antivirus program and reset default passwords (e.g., the password for the administrator's account). Consider use of a firewall program, but check with the information technology supervisor or an outside computer adviser first.
- \*Establish a security routine. This may include automating operating systems and antivirus updates. Be sure to run a spyware program regularly. If possible, do other work in non-administrator accounts.
- \*Prepare for contingencies. Significantly, ensure that the necessary files are backed up regularly. In addition, improve the ability to rebuild the system in case of an infection. Have a plan in place for handling emergencies and facilitating upgrades.
- \*Be suspicious and vigilant. Do not open unexpected e-mail attachments or download unknown programs. Do not share passwords with others. Keep proprietary information off-limits to outsiders.

Of course, there are no guarantees that the system will not be invaded. Nevertheless, it makes sense to take precautions that can only help but cannot hurt.