

New Business: Small Business Alert! Hackers target small companies

If you think your business computers are safe from hacking attacks because your company is too small to appeal to hackers, think again. Though the big international companies are indeed attractive to hackers, these web criminals are beginning to find small businesses lucrative targets too.

The U.S. Secret Service and Verizon Communications forensic analysis unit handled 761 data breaches in 2010, a significant increase from the 141 breaches investigated in 2009. Of the 761 attacks in 2010, 482 or 63% involved companies with 100 or fewer employees.

These statistics make it clear that being small does not mean a company is safe from hackers. A 2010 survey reported in the *Wall Street Journal* showed that 64% of small and medium sized retailers in the U.S. believed their businesses weren't vulnerable to credit card data theft by hackers. Only 49% had done a review of their security safeguards.