Ashton
TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

→ No. 1: How long can you run your business without computers?

If your network is offline, therefore your data is unavailable – how long can you keep working? For many companies, orders, client contacts, purchasing, and shipping is stored in and handled from a computer. Without that data and a way to access it, the company is shut down.

→ No. 2: How valuable is your data?

You have plenty of data that is very valuable. Things like – a list of your clients, list of your vendors, deals you've done, special pricing you may have, and internal marketing information are all valuable data.

→ No. 3: Where is your data, and how is it protected?

If you have a server you'd expect your company data is stored there. If you have a cloud service such as Google G-Suite (now Workspace) or Office 365, there are several locations within those services where you can put files and information. These systems are enabled by default – are you using them? What would happen if your laptop or smart phone was stolen? How is that protected?

→ No. 4: How is your data backed up – and how do you know?

Traditional server backup is well-understood but still needs to be monitored. A backup does not exist until it can be restored from. Is your IT team regularly reviewing backups to ensure consistency? Are they performing periodic test restores? To recover from a major incident – malicious or not – you need that data backed up to another service and again, monitored and tested periodically.

→ No. 5: How are your computers and devices protected?

Do you have a managed antivirus/endpoint application such as Sophos Central, Trend Micro cloud, or Microsoft Defender for Endpoint? Who is monitoring to ensure the application is actually running on your computers and handling incidents when they come up? How are you ensuring your company devices are kept up to date on security patches?

→ No. 6: How is your IT provider supporting your compliance needs?

Being able to prove compliance with a recognized framework can reduce your legal liability in the case of a breach. More recently insurers are using compliance frameworks as part of their requirements for coverage.

→ No. 7: What are your IT policies?

You need a technology policy/acceptable use policy in your employee handbook that spells out the expectations of how computers, networks, and company information should be used.

For additional information give Ashton Technology Solutions a call at **216-397-4080** or visit us at **ashtonsolutions.com**