

# Steps Contractors Can Take to Reduce Cyber Attacks

All organizations are subject to cyber-attacks, but over the past few years, the construction industry continues to be one of the top targets.

Not an honor to be proud of, but it goes to show how the fast-paced industry, coupled with an increased number of remote users, is providing the right combination of opportunities and vulnerabilities for hackers.

In addition, subcontractors' invoices, owners' payment applications and the usual day-to-day sets of activities creates undesirable points of compromise –and, often, all it takes for a hacker to exploit those vulnerabilities is for one employee to inappropriately click on a false link.

Here are ten steps contractors can take to protect themselves:

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**1 RESTRICT TRAFFIC TO AND FROM COUNTRIES IN WHICH YOU DON'T CONDUCT BUSINESS**
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**2 ENSURE PROPER VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT**
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**3 PROCURE APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF CYBER INSURANCE AND COVERAGE**
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**4 IMPLEMENT REAL-TIME DETECTION AND RESPONSE**
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**5 IMPLEMENT STRONG PASSWORD POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS**
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**6 PERFORM REGULAR VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND PENETRATION TESTING**
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**7 PROVIDE REGULAR CYBERSECURITY TRAINING AND SECURITY AWARENESS EDUCATION**
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**8 REQUIRE MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION FOR REMOTE ACCESS AND CLOUD SERVICES**
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**9 REGULARLY TEST AND EVOLVE BACKUP AND RECOVERY PLANS**
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**10 WORK WITH A TRUSTED SERVICE PROVIDER FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS**

## How Can Schneider Downs Help?

The Schneider Downs cybersecurity practice consists of experts offering a comprehensive set of information technology security services, including penetration testing, intrusion prevention/detection review, ransomware security, vulnerability assessments and a robust digital forensics and incident response team. In addition, our Digital Forensics and Incident Response teams are available 24x7x365 at 1-800-993-8937 if you suspect or are experiencing a network incident of any kind.

To learn more, visit [www.schneiderdowns.com/cybersecurity](http://www.schneiderdowns.com/cybersecurity) or contact the team at [cybersecurity@schneiderdowns.com](mailto:cybersecurity@schneiderdowns.com).

## About Schneider Downs Construction Services

Led by a diverse group of shareholders and managers, Schneider Downs provides strategic and practical solutions for our construction clients in all facets of their business. Our dedicated team of more than 350 professionals have a wide background of tax, accounting, technological and business experience in the region and are committed to helping our clients solve the growing list of complex business and accounting problems facing the construction industry.

To learn more, visit [www.schneiderdowns.com/construction](http://www.schneiderdowns.com/construction).

