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RDP luncheons are canceled until further notice.



May 2021 Builden Business Improvement District

Mayor's Monthly Message

On December 8, 2020, I took the oath as Riverside's 18th mayor. Since then my administration has been driven by five major priorities. This month I wanted to briefly share on each of these areas. I begin with Economic Development & Job Growth. Riverside is on the cusp of launching a new job sector-I mentioned this is last month's message. This new green tech sector will bring in high-quality jobs for Riverside's local, qualified workforce. Working with partners at the Chambers of Commerce, universities and nonprofits to identify Riverside's competitive advantages will further opportunities for investment.

Next, and most large in scope, is Quality of Life. I will continue my decades-long work of making the Santa Ana River a destination for recreation. Working with a regional coalition, Riverside will reduce fire danger and address homelessness in the river bottom with access to mental health services, emergency shelter programs and job training. Riversiders are also in need of high-quality entertainment and restaurants, and as the City of Arts and Innovation, more opportunities to access public art.

An area of focus of mine for the last decade—and now part of my mayoral priorities—is **Education**. Creating **stronger bonds** between the City of Riverside and **local higher education institutions** will encourage **graduate retention** following the completion of education. Connecting **local colleges** and **employers** to provide in-demand **technical training, certification, and**



professional development programs will create methods of retaining local talent.

Finances can have **impacts on all** other areas, which is why we will always strive for **Stable Finances**. Community involvement in the **prioritybased budgeting** process—which is happening now—will direct **funding to programs** and departments **deemed most critical** by Riverside's residents. We will continue to explore innovative ways of **generating revenue**. Riverside will be positioned for fiscal success with the **attraction of investment**, which will **spur business growth**.

And finally, what unites us all is our connected **Social Capital.** Riverside's greatest strength is its caring, committed and connected community. When making important decisions, I will **seek the advice of,** and include, **all Riversiders.**

With these five guiding priorities, I know that we are **poised to meet** and take on the **opportunities** and **challenges** of our day.

To see more information on this, find the priorities tab on my website at RiversideCA.gov/mayor.

We Want to Hear from You

The International Downtown Association (IDA) is once again partnering with RRC Associates on national consumer research to assess priorities and plans of residents, customers and employees as we emerge from COVID and look toward the summer season.

The Riverside Downtown Partnership (RDP) is participating in this research *continued on next page*

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and wants to hear from You. What are your plans for working, shopping, dining and recreation this summer?

Please take a few minutes to provide your opinions and share priorities on important questions. We all want to get back to doing the things we love in ways that make everyone feel safe and comfortable. Your opinions matter.

Participate in Metrolink's SoCal Explorer Program

Metrolink's SoCal Explorer loyalty program combines several partnerships with a growing collection of local businesses across the six counties this mega railway serves with rewards for its loyal riders.

Metrolink is working to support the recovery of local businesses that were hit hard by the effects of COVID-19 by encouraging riders to take the train to our SoCal Explorer partnership businesses in exchange for earning "points" toward their rewards account.

Currently more than 35 local businesses are SoCal Explorer Partners, offering discounts and other incentives to the program members in exchange for being promoted on Metrolink's marketing channels. Offers

Rest assured that all your answers are confidential and will be reported only in aggregate along with all other responses.

Our custom link is https://survey.rrcresearch.com/s3/ DowntownRiversideSentimentSurvey

range from BOGO deals to a specific percentage or dollar amount off a purchase and more -- in exchange for comprehensive coverage across Metrolink's social media including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the Metrolink Matters blog.

It's free to sign up, and businesses can learn more about this mutually beneficial program by visiting socalexplorer. metrolinktrains.com/partnerships.

Questions can be directed to Director of Marketing and Partnerships Monica Boudin at bouldinm@scrra.net or Communications Writer Molly O'Brien at obrienm@scrra. net.

Arts Corner: Back to the Grind

Contributed by Patrick Brien, Executive Director - Riverside Arts Council



Twenty-five years ago on April 20, 1996 Darren Conkerite opened downtown Riverside's Back to the Grind. A large hand-painted sign inside the popular independent coffee shop reads, "Back to the Grind is a place for all to come together leaving all labels outside."

Conkerite explained that he was inspired by dialogue from a 1960s movie.

"I took the core of that dialogue and came up with the signage that encapsulates everything about The Grind," he says. "I don't know how many people have told me that this is like a home away from home to them; how welcome and accepted they feel."

Conkerite didn't start off planning to run a coffee shop. It was through a series of trips to various cities around the United States where he looked at venues offering local entertainment that the idea began to take shape. A unique coffee shop seemed to be the perfect choice to offer specialty coffee, food, entertainment and the arts while creating a sense of community.

Since opening, the University Avenue location has played host to art exhibitions, concerts and themed parties. It has

been a place where local musicians could play to receptive audiences and receive much needed exposure. Visual artists also found a place where their art could be seen, sometimes for the first time. The literary arts have always been well represented. During the monthly Artswalk event, the venue is always a focal point for both artists and visitors. And Saturation, an annual music and art festival that takes place throughout downtown, is centered at Back to the Grind.

"The arts are fundamental to our humanity," said Conkerite. "They enable us to be inspired, to foster creativity, to perhaps discover a new interpretation, to admire beauty. They enhance our world. Through the eyes of artists, they mirror our values as a society, build bridges between cultures, and unite us regardless of ethnicity, religion or age. We saw a need to support local artists and to showcase their talents."

Of course, COVID-19 brought a halt to all events. Everything at Back to the Grind came to a sudden stop. As businesses began to slowly emerge from the pandemic lockdown, Conkerite was able to operate by essentially serving as the shop's manager and only employee. With limited indoor service allowed, he has recently begun to look toward a time when he can begin bringing staff back. Conkerite is eager to welcome people once again to events that showcase the talent of this region.

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For more information, visit back2thegrind.com.

RDP Welcomes New Businesses to Downtown

Burgerstand, LLC (food) • Love4Life,Inc. (food) • Whatever Betty (antiques) ZGW Express Inc. (delivery)

COUNCIL CORNER Ward One Council Update

Contributed by Councilwoman Erin Edwards

Downtown is thriving as Riverside transitions to post-COVID recovery. The City has administered 52,189 vaccines as of April 16th. Scheduling an appointment is easier than ever. You can schedule your vaccine appointment at https://vaccine.RiversideCA.gov. Testing remains important so schedule your test at https:// RiversideCA.gov/testing.

This month brings new opportunities to live, play, and eat in Downtown Riverside. New eateries are headed our way this season with **Slater's 50/50** planning their **opening by the end of May.** Plant-based cuisine enthusiasts can look forward to **The Roots opening on June 1st. Centerpointe Luxury Apartments** are expected to **open in late May,** and **The Mark** is expected to be completed **by Fall 2021.** Riverside Libraries are excited to phase their reopening in May, and we're thrilled to see the **opening of the new Main Library** this summer! **The Cheech** has broken ground and is anticipated to open in the spring of 2022. At the dais, expect **California** workforce projections, housing element updates, and budget workshops. Until May 5th, community members can make public comment on the initial study of the housing element update via resources available on www. riversideca.gov/housingupdate. The Economic Development Committee



will continue the dialogue on **local procurement policies** and **electrification**. Keep your eye out for updates from our Code Enforcement Department regarding the continued dialogue on **street and mobile food vendors**. On May 18th, Council will receive an important update on the 21/22 fiscal year budget. Your input is critical to helping us invest in our future. We hope to see you at our office hours on May 10th from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Information can be found on my social media. Don't hesitate to reach me at 951-783-7811.

Ward Two Council Update

Contributed by Councilman Andy Melendrez

Riverside County has now moved into Orange or Moderate Risk Level Tier of the State Blueprint for a Safer Economy. If all goes well and cases continue to drop, the Governor may lift all restrictions by June. This is great news for the State and for our local economy.

Packing House Fire: A fire destroyed the Riverside Naval Growers Association building, also known as the Riverside Citrus Packing House, one of Riverside's older packing houses built in 1923. Early Thursday morning on April 22nd a fire broke out at this amazing building which had a unique design with rafters in the shape of an arch, aged wood flooring. It even had some of the original processing machinery used back in the early days of our City's Citrus Boom. As proud Riversiders, our landmarks matter, and we must require an adaptive reuse of the Royal Citrus Packing House when the RCTC Platform Expansion occurs. RCTC plans to expand and add new Metro Link platforms which would call for the demolition of the Historic Royal Citrus Packing House.

Riverside Arts Academy (RAA): The Riverside Arts Academy is committed to changing the lives of our youth by providing instruction and a springboard to arts education in a broad-based curriculum that focuses on improving the quality of life through music, dance, performing, and visual arts. 2020 presented a challenge that the Riverside Arts Academy was able to push through and they were the first arts program in the nation to pilot virtual arts lessons for youth. We are now gearing up for summer programs and we still need your support to ensure that all of our students have access to world class music and arts instruction. If you would like to help our students in their arts education, please consider becoming a member by visiting www. riversideartsacademy.com.

Ward 2 Business Spotlight:

• Lenoir's Bistro & Bakery: is a quaint and delicious business that will leave you feeling satiated after your meal. Lenoir's is comfort food that's close to home. You can try any of their gourmet selection and walk away one



happy customer. Be sure to try Lenoir's Bistro & conveniently located at 5225 Canyon Crest Dr. Suite 92, Riverside, CA in the Canyon Crest Towne Center.

• 7 Leaves Cafe: If you like delicious, flavorful caffeinated drinks visit the all-new 7 Leaves Café located at the University Village Shopping Center, 1201 University Ave, STE 101, Riverside, CA. While you're there waiting for your order you can also stop by and enjoy the Amazing mural created by Allison Brown ArtDesign. Feel free to call ahead for your order at 951-530-8666.

Ward 2 Projects:

• **Upcoming Projects:** We're bringing back the Eastside Market Night. With the help of our friends at Fridars we will be once again enjoying a fun filled evening with our families and friends on Saturday Nights at Lincoln Park. We hope to start the Market nights by late May or Early June.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the projects or events in Ward 2 please call my office at 951-826-5991 or email me at asmelendrez@riversideca.gov.

Riverside Arts Academy Update

Spring has sprung and is in full swing at the Riverside Arts Academy (RAA)! The month of April brought RAA's virtual Spring Concert "New Beginnings," that celebrated Riverside Arts Academy Music Project (RAAMP) students and looked forward to a bright future. May is just as promising, as RAA prepares for exciting new opportunities.

RAA is pleased to announce that four of its RAAMP students have been accepted into the YOLA (Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles) National Festival, a highly competitive summer music festival open to young musicians from around the country and abroad. Congratulations to Rebekah Campbell, Aiden Co, Joseline Duarte, and Yunshu Zhang! The YOLA National Festival will take place in the summer of 2021.

RAA will also host its RAAMP Summer Music Program for Riverside youth in elementary to high school. This 4-week music program will be held in July and offer music classes to students at any level of musicianship. Whether a child has been playing an instrument for several years or is just starting to express interest in music, RAA has a place for them at the RAAMP Summer Music Program! Stay tuned for more details at riversideartsacademy.com. The Riverside Arts Academy is grateful for these amazing opportunities to have its students grow and to continue to serve the community by providing access to music and arts to Riverside's youth. None of this would be possible without the support of RAA's sponsors and donors. RAA would like to specifically thank the sponsors of its Spring Concert, "New Beginnings." Thank you to Richard and Ellie Bennett, Sergio and Letty Diaz, Dwight Tate and Kathy Wright, Christiane Amat, John and Diane Kaufman of Adams Shell gas station, Lamar Advertising of San Bernardino-Riverside, the City of Riverside, and others, for sponsoring and supporting this event.

The Riverside Arts Academy is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in Riverside's school districts, higher education institutions, city leadership, and community. Its mission is to provide arts and music education to underresourced youth in Riverside aged 4-17 to positively affect the trajectory of their lives and create social change in our community through music!

For more information, visit www.riversideartsacademy. com or call 951-266-5540.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT - Plant Power

Plant Power is a fast-food restaurant with a twist, specializing in vegan/ vegetarian food. It opened in 2020 and is one of several outlets in Southern California. The menu offers breakfast until 11 am plus a range of burgers, fries, chicken tenders, salads, and shakes. Customers can order from the pre-set menu, or build-their-own burger choosing from the different patties like tempeh,

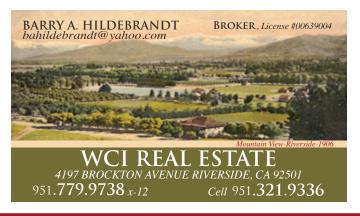
convenient with COVID restrictions.



to greenhouse gasses and is enormously wasteful of our precious water resources. The consumption of meat and dairy is also now understood to be a key contributor to a rising number of health problems. We feel that there's a better way. How about burgers, fries, salads, shakes, and other tasty treats made entirely without the use of animal products,

GMO's or artificial ingredients and served to you in 100% biodegradable materials? We warmly invite you to come on by & enjoy a meal".

3940 University Avenue • 951-502-5222 www.plantpowerfastfood.com Find them on Facebook



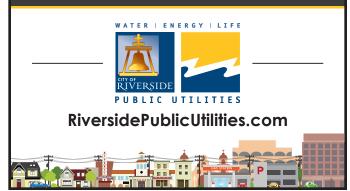
black bean, or beefy. It offers a drive-up and order system,

Plant Power's philosophy – "We believe that one of the

most powerful decisions that any of us can make is to

decrease the amount of animal products in our diet. Most

of us already know about the effects of meat and dairy production on our planet: It's the single largest contributor



BUSINESS BUZZ Top Risks for Small Business Owners The top three risks are interrelated

Every business faces risks. Risk is the chance that a loss, injury, or peril will occur, or that an outcome will differ from what the business owner expected, often preventing a company from meeting its financial or operational goals.

If business owners identify the risks most likely to affect their company, they can take steps to minimize the effects. Risks may be external or internal, with external risks originating outside a firm, and internal risks arising from within. Learn about the external and internal risks companies may face this year and how they can be managed.

Risk Barometer Outlines Most Important Concerns

What are the major risks for businesses? To answer that question, the insurance company Allianz surveyed more than 2,700 business people and risk management experts across the globe in late 2020. The survey respondents represented businesses of all sizes, including large, medium-sized, and small companies.

The insurer asked the participants to name up to three risks that were most important to businesses in their industry. Allianz then analyzed the results and published its findings in a report called the Risk Barometer, which outlines the top 10 risks worldwide, as cited by the survey respondents. Allianz releases the Risk Barometer on an annual basis, identifying the top corporate risks for the year ahead.

Major business risks vary somewhat from year to year. Because the pandemic caused unprecedented disruption in 2020, it overshadowed many other risks.

External Risks

Nine of the 10 risks outlined in the Risk Barometer for 2021 were external risks. They are listed below, in descending order of importance. The first three business interruption, the COVID-19 pandemic, and cyber incidents—are interlinked. According to Allianz, this demonstrates the growing vulnerability and uncertainty of our highly globalized and connected world, even for small businesses. Actions taken in one location can have ramifications across the globe, according to the report. Here's a closer look at each external risk.

Business Interruption

Many businesses have suffered disruption and income losses due to government-imposed shutdowns or supply chain problems related to the pandemic. This has highlighted the downside of global production and supply chains, which have replaced local manufacturing and sourcing for many companies in recent decades.

Early in 2020, manufacturing facilities in China and other countries were forced to shut down for reasons related to COVID-19. The coronavirus also caused delays in container shipping and at major ports. At the

by Marianna Bonner

same time, demand for products like face masks, bleach, and pharmaceuticals increased substantially, resulting in supply chain complications. Many U.S. businesses were unable to obtain products they needed to maintain their regular operations.

Pandemic Outbreak

As a result of the global health crisis, some small businesses have been forced to close temporarily, shut down for good, or even declare bankruptcy. Some have had trouble paying rent or have been forced to lay off workers, too. Almost 94% of companies surveyed in a recent report by trade credit insurance company Euler Hermes, noted in the Risk Barometer, reported a disruption to their supply chains due to the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. companies are the most affected, with 26% reporting a "severe disruption."

Cyber Incidents

As businesses become increasingly more dependent on technology and intangible assets, cyber risks are a major concern. The pandemic has accelerated this trend, according to the Euler Hermes survey, with a quarter of respondents facing a disruption coming from the IT, tech, and energy sectors. Because many small businesses lack a robust security system, they are vulnerable to data breaches, ransomware, and other types of cyberattacks.

Small businesses can protect themselves against cyber risks by investing in robust antivirus software and purchasing cyber insurance coverage.

The Six Other External Risks

• **Market Developments:** With the world in the midst of an economic downturn, many industries are experiencing volatility. Business insolvencies worldwide have increased by 38%, according to the Allianz report.3 As financially weak companies leave the marketplace, new competitors will enter, putting pressure on the businesses that remain.

• Legislative and Regulatory Changes: This category includes risks like marijuana legislation, state laws redefining the meaning of "independent contractor," and laws requiring paid sick leave.

• **Natural Catastrophes:** Many small businesses are located in areas vulnerable to natural catastrophes, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, or floods. Many natural perils are covered by standard property policies but some catastrophes, like earthquakes and floods, require specialized insurance.

• **Macroeconomic Developments:** These include monetary policies, interest rates, inflation, and deflation.

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• Climate Change and Volatile Weather: Climate change increases the frequency and severity of heat waves, windstorms, wildfires, and other natural catastrophes that can damage business property.

• Political Risks and Violence: According to Allianz, riots and other forms of civil unrest now challenge terrorism as the main political risk exposure for businesses. Small businesses located in urban areas may suffer property losses during riots or other civil disturbances. Fortunately, riot and civil commotion are covered perils under most property insurance policies.

Internal Risks

Internal risks originate inside the business organization. Of the top 10 global risks described in the Allianz Risk Barometer, only one, fire and explosion, is an internal risk. Other common internal risks are listed below.

Fire and Explosion

Fire and explosion appears as No. 7 on the Allianz Risk Barometer—both globally and in the U.S.—after natural catastrophes. These perils can cause major damage. They also can generate income losses if they prevent companies from serving their customers or resuming their operations in a timely manner. Physical damage caused by fire and explosion is covered by standard property policies, and revenue losses can be covered by business income insurance.

Shortage of Skilled Workers

Small businesses employ nearly half of the U.S. workforce. Many businesses were having difficulty recruiting skilled workers before the pandemic began, and the outbreak has compounded the problem.

Employee Injuries

Workplace injuries are a serious risk for small businesses. They can increase the employer's workers' compensation costs and disrupt operations. Many small businesses rely on a few key workers, and may have trouble functioning if one is out on disability. Businesses can help prevent injuries by creating a workplace safety plan.

Cyber Incidents

Cyber incidents can be perpetrated by employees. According to the FBI, a significant number of data thefts suffered by businesses are committed by former or disgruntled employees who exploit their access to company networks. Businesses can prevent such incidents by revoking employees' access to computer systems when they leave the firm. Employers should also monitor current employees for suspicious activities.

How Business Owners Can Manage Risk

While many of the external risks that worry business owners around the world are out of their control, it's possible to prepare in advance, minimizing the effects of many internal risks.

Whether human, technical, or financial, it's possible to identify and anticipate such risks in your business plan. Look at anything that could halt, slow, or affect the profit of your business. The U.S. Small Business Administration suggests listing these risks, ranking them in importance for your circumstances, and calculating potential costs.

Pinpointing and assessing top business risks is something that will require time and should be revisited periodically. Be sure to schedule time in your calendar to consider and plan for areas of business risk.

Source https://www.thebalancesmb.com/

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SECURITY CORNERCybersecurity Checklist for Small Businesses in 2021 andBeyondby Joseph Chukwube, business2community.com

Months plagued with the novel coronavirus pandemic have had remote operations integrated into the way businesses are run. However, as businesses reopen and struggle to find a balance with the bulk of their operations moved online, it would seem that cyber attackers are making out the space as their honeypot.

Today's cyber threat landscape is expanding to include new and more sophisticated vectors. As such, small and medium scale businesses are particularly susceptible to security breaches.

Reports have shown that about 43% of cyber-attacks occur with small businesses. This is so because, unlike large organizations and agencies, most small businesses are believed to be unattractive to hackers and malicious attackers. As such, essential protection is neglected in this regard.

Post-Pandemic Business: Cyber Threats on the Rise The pandemic has undoubtedly changed working practices with large-scale growth recorded in online cloud services, e-commerce, and work-from-home technologies. However, alongside this exponential growth, the vulnerability of businesses to security breaches is on the rise.

Statistics show that cyberspace recorded about 30% increase in security breaches post-pandemic. Today's cyber-crime landscape has set the bar so low that it is relatively easy for participants to get high returns with minimal technical skills.

Given the interconnection of networks and devices, data privacy and security are susceptible to being attacked. New waves of attacks indicate a concentration in phishing and privacy hacks. Cybercriminals have been noted to pose as legitimate agencies to get information from businesses of all ranges by sending pseudo-mails and injecting malware into networks.

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While quite a few small businesses have had to face attacks of this count in the past, the e-commerce boom and more sophistication in financial tools of the trade have called attention to the security lapses in the business of this sort.

This is why a security checklist and excellent cyberhygiene practice is a crucial tool in ensuring long-term productivity.

Cybersecurity Checklist for Small Businesses

Running a business remotely has its trade-offs – productivity, efficiency, and good returns – especially with the pandemic still taking its toll on the world's economy. However, in the light of the rise in cyber threats, it is essential to keep the security of your network in check with the following tips:

Dual-layered Account Protection and Passkeys

Private keys and passwords are integral parts of any digital account setup. Password-cracking is reportedly one of the highest links to cybercrimes. These days, a cybercriminal can easily gain access to networks by leveraging the predictability of passkeys.

This is why it is important to set up strong passwords when working digitally. It is essential to note that passwords can be easily predicted when linked to the user, while others can be accessed through a combination of words in the dictionary.

Eliminating the factor of predictability while integrating good password policies is one of the best ways to keep your business safe from prying eyes and hands. Also in this light, the importance of two-factor authentication (2FA) is often underrated.

Therefore, it is imperative to note that setting up duallayered protection for accounts ensures that they are not easily breached.

• Educating Employees and Customers on Cybersecurity

Timely access to useful information on the threats that could be faced when operating digitally goes a long way in addressing malicious attacks for businesses. In addition to regular updates on managing or interacting with the business network, the place of information on cyber-hygiene should not be neglected.

Some of the best ways to achieve this are setting up cybersecurity workshops, creating related blog posts, updating staff handbooks, and staying up-to-date with the latest upgrades in the cybersecurity scene. For instance, it is important that business owners and customers check emails or attachments sent to them before fully accessing them.

• Enable Private and Secure Connections

In the course of browsing through a network or conducting business digitally, streams of data are exchanged – which are susceptible to being exploited for malicious purposes.

Cybercriminals divert traffic from one network to another by intercepting data. These attackers go beyond this to set up malware and viruses through ads and push notifications to access useful information. These bugs also slow down site speed rates – thereby reducing customer engagement on the sites.

This issue can be combated by visiting secure sites and establishing secure connections. One of the major areas of exposure to these attacks is browsing via public Wi-Fi or open-source software. Attacks on this front expose businesses to phishing and malware injection.

Beyond double-checking the security of the site visited, small businesses must employ the use of user-friendly VPNs that have been reviewed and rated to be trustworthy for browsing.

Trustworthy VPNs employ military-grade layers of encryption, well-protected servers to transmit data, remarkable speed, and security to networks. It provides a firewall against suspicious apps and services while working in the background.

In this event, businesses will also benefit from installing anti-malware and anti-viruses into systems and sites. However, it is essential to note that due to the nature of the firewall configuration of VPNs, some VPNs clash with anti-malware and anti-viruses upon installation.

Routine Security Checks and Updates

Performing security checks on the strength and safety of the network upon which businesses of all levels are run is a sure way of maintaining such a company's integrity. Scheduling cybersecurity checks help to note lapses in security and possible solutions.

Liaisons with Cloud-based Networks

Data invariably make up the bulk of any business. Proper data processing and storage is a remarkable way of fostering more customer engagement through anticipation and accommodation of customer needs. Therefore, it is crucial for small businesses looking to advance to store or back up relevant data properly.

Thanks to subsequent upgrades, cloud security is top-notch these days. Partnering with cloud systems and backing up information helps to regain balance if ever there is an attack on the services' network.

Another means of ensuring important data stays protected is by keeping data offline through disconnected network drives. E-commerce websites today enable payment integration through various digital means. One of the best ways of ensuring proper protection of funds and vital customer information in this variation is by storing it in a secure drive.

Conclusion

The world is undergoing a digital revolution and the business landscape is not left out. Especially with the coronavirus pandemic slowing down business processes and operations, businesses are now moving digitally.

Given this disruption, cyber-crimes are becoming more lucrative with small businesses vulnerable to these attacks. As a business owner, it is therefore vital to note that arming businesses with an updated security checklist is a sure way of minimizing the susceptibility of networks to attacks of any sort.



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