

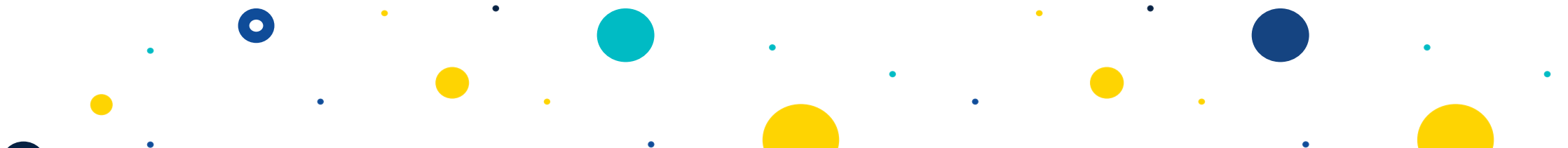
Cybersecurity for SMEs and freelancers: protect your business in the digital world and stay one step ahead of the curve

“Una manera de hacer Europa”

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

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Introduction

Cybersecurity has become a **growing concern** in the business world and for society in general. Cyber attacks represent a **real threat** that can jeopardize **data security**, **reputation** and generate significant **economic losses**.

With increasing digitization, **SMEs** and **freelancers** have become more **vulnerable** to these attacks, so it **is essential** that they are **prepared** and have **adequate cybersecurity measures in place**.



Cybersecurity awareness

> The **process** of raising **awareness** of cybersecurity is something that can begin by **taking a number of actions**, such as those listed below:



Establish clearly stated **cybersecurity policies** and communicate them effectively and regularly.



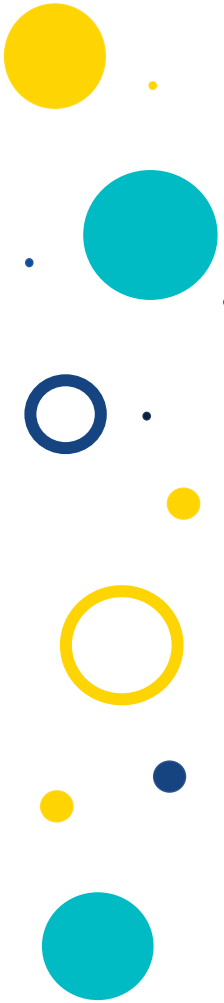
Report risks with real cases to illustrate the consequences of lack of cybersecurity awareness and knowledge.



Educate and train employees of the SME so that they are aware of the most common risks and how to avoid them.



Exchange information with other agencies and associations to prevent the most common or most recent attacks.



Most common threats in cybersecurity

INCIBE - Guide to **prevent various attacks** and **how to act**:

1. Information leaks
2. Phishing attacks
3. CEO fraud (spear phishing)
4. HR fraud
5. Sextortion
6. Attacks against the corporate website
7. Ransomware
8. Fake Microsoft support scam
9. Malware email campaigns
10. Denial of service (DoS) attacks
11. Adware attacks
12. Vendor impersonation attacks

Data protection and practical tips for cybersecurity implementation

> **Data susceptible to theft** by cybercriminals:



**CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED
CORPORATE INFORMATION**



CUSTOMER INFORMATION



SUPPLIER INFORMATION



EMPLOYEE INFORMATION



PASSWORDS

Data protection and practical tips for cybersecurity implementation



BASIC GUIDELINES

1. Use unique **passwords**
2. Multi-factor **identification**
3. Employ a **firewall**
4. Up-to-date **operating system** at all times
5. Avoid connecting to **public Wi-Fi** and activate **VPN**
6. Check that links have "**https**".
7. Enabling or increasing **privacy settings**
8. Be cautious about what **personal information** you share and where you share it
9. Only download **software** that is **verified** and from trusted sources
10. Regularly perform **backups**

Data protection and practical tips for cybersecurity implementation

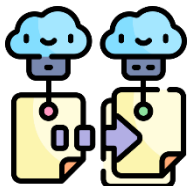
> Applying cybersecurity measures must be accompanied by an organized and measured implementation. For this reason, the following **strategies** are proposed:



Developing a cybersecurity plan



Establish an incident response



Perform regular backups



Establish security policies



Implement technical security measures



Employee training and awareness



Keep software up to date



Reducing the digital footprint



Cybersecurity tools and technologies



Antivirus

- Bitdefender Antivirus Free
- Avast Free Antivirus



VPN

- Hotspot Shield
- ProtonVPN Free



Firewall

- Windows Defender
- ZoneAlarm
- Comodo Free Firewall



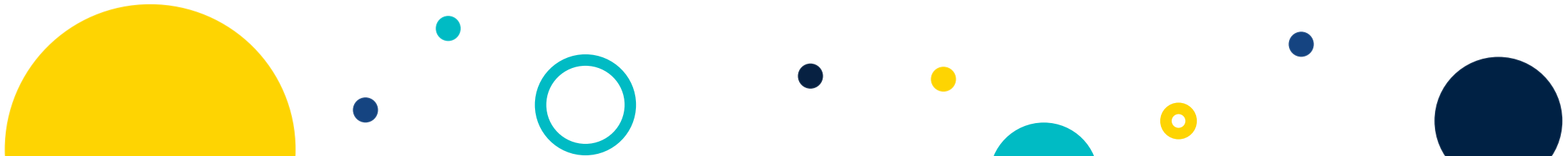
Password manager

- 1Password
- LastPass

Conclusions

In short, **SMEs and the self-employed must be prepared** to deal with **cybersecurity threats**. Awareness, understanding of common threats, data protection and implementation of appropriate security measures are key aspects to minimize risks.

Cybersecurity **must be a priority** for all companies, as attacks **can have serious consequences** both in terms of security and economic.



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