

Top Information Security Concerns for Manufacturers

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InnoTek manages the Information Technology and Information Security for many businesses in North East PA, but specifically, 28% of our Clients are in the Manufacturing vertical. As IT Security Professionals, we know that there are many areas that need to be protected from an IT standpoint, but our manufacturing Clients are most concerned (like most businesses) in areas that affect production, cash flow, and sales. The following areas are the top concerns for manufacturers that we see:

1. Social Engineering Attacks/Phishing/Spear Phishing

The vast majority of network breaches are caused by some sort of human error or complacency and can lead to Ransomware, Bank Fraud or some type of Data Breach.

According to Kaspersky Labs, ransomware attacks have increased 8x in the last year. A single computer that has been hit with ransomware can cause a manufacturing facility's entire network to be inoperable, and can halt production and lock crucial financial files, affecting the ability for the business to collect payments and process orders.

Social attacks (43% of all attacks used some form of social engineering per Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report (DBIR)) can cause vital banking information to be leaked and allow unauthorized use/withdrawals from the business bank account. Even if banking information is not compromised, Client and pricing lists can be exposed and misused.

2. Weak Network Security Leading to a Network Data Breach

DBIR reports that 62% of breaches were caused by outsiders hacking into a network and 51% of attacks included the deployment of some sort of malware.

All of the IT managers that InnoTek consults with have some level of concern about the security that is deployed on their network, and network security makes up a significant portion of their responsibilities.

3. Hardware Failure

A hardware failure can affect all areas of a business, but typically will have the biggest impact when it is directly related to the production lines. A hardware failure can cause the production line to stop or create an inability to ship finished product, quickly filling valuable storage space.

As long as a business has a solid preventative maintenance program in place and is proactive with hardware replacements, this sort of interruption poses the least risk to manufacturing facility.

Information Security Concerns From a Solution Standpoint

To combat the concerns listed above, IT managers of manufacturing facilities focus their efforts on:

- **Multiple layers of network security**
- **Implementing a regular maintenance and update process**
- **Building a Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery plan**
- **Building a Security Mindset within the employees**

Feel free to contact InnoTek for more information on implementing these solutions within your organization.



“I Highly Recommend InnoTek Computer Consulting To Any Company Who Simply Needs Additional Expertise To Fill-In The Gaps With an Existing IT Department!”

Whenever I have issues or just questions, InnoTek is there to help me out. Everyone at InnoTek is very personable and easy to deal with. I highly recommend InnoTek Computer Consulting to any company who is in need of IT management, or who simply needs additional expertise to fill-in the gaps with an existing IT Department.

David Mosteller, IT Manager, Milco Industries, Inc.