

# AT&T and the Polytechnic Institute of New York University Small Business Cyber Security Survey Key Findings October 2012

## Wireless Devices

The vast majority (96%) of small businesses use wireless communication devices.

- ❖ 59% of small businesses rely exclusively on wireless devices.
- ❖ 41% of small businesses allow employees to use these devices to access business files.
- ❖ 83% allow employees to use personal devices for work.
  - 21% allow their employees to access work email, company applications or software solutions, business files and customer information on their personal devices.

## Security Concerns and Preparation

Despite the fact that only one-third (37%) of small businesses have ever suffered a cyber/online security incident, many small businesses are concerned about the security of their data, their customers' information and the implication of not securing both.

- ❖ 91% of small businesses are concerned about computer and online data security.
- ❖ 69% are concerned about security of data and information in the cloud.
- ❖ 65% are concerned about data security of their wireless devices.
  - 82% of small businesses have taken steps to secure company laptops, but only 32% are taking measures to protect smartphones, and only 39% are taking measures to protect tablets.

## Cyber Incidents

37% of small businesses have ever suffered a cyber/online security incident; 21% have suffered an incident in the past two years.

- ❖ 82% of businesses that experienced a security breach were affected by a computer virus; 32% experienced phishing.
- ❖ 37% of businesses who use wireless communication devices have suffered a cyber attack.
  - 18% of businesses who do not use wireless communication devices have suffered a cyber attack.

## Survey Methodology

The results of this survey are based on an online survey of 623 small business owners and/or employees across the United States responsible for Information Technology (IT). The sample of participating was drawn from ResearchNow's online business panel of companies. Small businesses were defined as having between one and 100 full-time employees. The majority of survey respondents represented companies with fewer than ten employees. The online survey was fielded between September 24-27, 2012, and was commissioned by AT&T and the Polytechnic Institute of New York University's Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Security and Privacy (CRISSP@NYU-Poly).

