HIGHSTREET
Insurance & Financial Services



Five ways to close the doors on cybercriminals

Cybercriminals look for open doors — ordinary vulnerabilities like simple passwords, an account without a second verification step or a missed security update. **Discover five habits to help you close the door on cyberattacks:**

Make every password long and unique

An eight-character password falls in seconds no matter how many symbols it holds. With current technology, a complex 16-character password would take billions of years, and every account needs its own.[1]

Put a password manager to work

It creates long random passwords and stores them safely, so length costs your team nothing to remember. Many password managers are low-cost and easy to use on your phone or in a browser.

Turn on multifactor authentication everywhere

That extra verification step after a password may be annoying, but it is the strongest single control most businesses have. Nearly 87% have it in place, but only half require it on every key business account.[2]

Keep software and devices current

Attackers study each update to learn what it fixes, then look for the businesses that haven't installed it yet. Most updates take five minutes or less and can help prevent a breach.

Slow down on unexpected messages

Urgency is often the first signal, like messages about payments that need to go out immediately or a login code that's required now. Most money lost to business fraud begins with a fraudulent message somebody believed.

When a door opens anyway, cyber liability coverage delivers:

WA response team, already assembled
Cyber coverage brings in forensic investigators, legal counsel and negotiators.

The money back where it can be recovered
In 2026, 64% of closed claims left the policyholder with no out-of-pocket loss.[3]

The business still running
Coverage picks up downtime, data recovery and the income lost while systems are down.

Make them work for it

Implement the five practices above, then talk with a Highstreet agent about what cyber coverage would offer if a cyberattack occurs anyway. Together, we'll help you **see possible.**

Sources: **1.** *National Cybersecurity Alliance (2026). Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2026 tip sheet.*
2. *National Cybersecurity Alliance (2026). 2026 Small Business Cybersecurity Awareness & Practices Survey.*
3. *Coalition (2026). 2026 Cyber Claims Report.*

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