



Capital Markets Group

Community Bank Views (Cyber Security)

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4 Cyber Security Predictions

Your Business Could Face in 2019

Now that 2018 is out and 2019 is in, you may be wondering what this year holds for your business in the realm of cyber security. While experts predict that the same threats will continue to plague us, there are a couple that are more likely to cause your business harm, as well as some new threats to the landscape.

- 1. Social Engineering:** Nearly all successful cyber-attacks begin with a phishing campaign, and the well-known Business Email Compromise (or BEC) scam isn't going anywhere. Social Engineering attacks, such as phishing, will remain a top threat for organizations in 2019. While phishing will still have success with email, this attack has evolved. Hackers have now employed text messages and phone calls to trick their victims.
- 2. Formjacking:** This is a new tool used by hackers to gather information on a user who believes the form they are filling out online is legitimate and secure. That form is typically rerouted to another location, where hackers capture information about the user. This is done by inserting malicious code into a website's JavaScript platform. This technique is used mostly to steal credit card information but can be used on any online forms. Symantec, a cyber security software company, is estimating that the instances of formjacking are likely to increase. Symantec also reports all companies and legal entities operating a website or payment transactions online is at risk for formjacking.
- 3. Cloud Security:** The cloud has become important to organizations, as they use it as a cost saving way to remain innovative and collaborate. The cloud service is expected to grow substantially with the number of devices and information rapidly increasing. This makes the cloud a challenge to manage and secure, creating a prime target for someone to access your information.
- 4. Malware:** Malicious software such as spyware, ransomware, trojans and viruses continue to be a big threat in 2019. Ransomware is predicted to be the number one threat since it is the most profitable form of malware. Still, there are new malware approaches and an increased volume of malware in other areas such as botnets, viruses and spyware



Next Steps

How can you protect your business in this ever-changing threat environment? Here are some actions you can take to help protect your business.

- 1. Train your employees to identify BEC scams.**
Consider doing an internal phishing campaign to identify where you need to provide more education to your employees.
- 2. Use a dedicated PC for online transactions,** especially financial ones. Ensure email and web browsing is blocked on this machine.
- 3. Ensure you secure your data during cloud migration** and reevaluate your cyber security and compliance processes. Consider bringing in a professional cyber security firm to assist you through this transition.
- 4. Anti-virus is not as reliable as it used to be** and is no longer enough to protect you. Use a layered defense approach to protect your business. Additionally, ensure strong passwords are used and never click on links sent to you by an unknown entity.

2019 is already setting up to be another record breaking year of breaches and data security risks. You and your employees must be aware of the threats and solutions to protect your business assets. Keep in mind that the threats listed above are not comprehensive and are ever changing with the threat landscape. What may be a concern now may not be a concern six months from now.

[Learn more about the four common types of malware.](#)



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