

Cyberattack awareness checklist – fifteen signs anyone can spot



How sure are you that everyone on board knows how to spot signs of a cyber-incident? Unfortunately, awareness is often lacking, which leads to delays in response that can be critical. Luckily, you can address this issue easily by making this list available to all your staff:

Email

- You can't access an account
- You receive a notification that your account has been accessed from an unusual IP address
- You've received password reset requests that you didn't make
- Unusual activity (e.g. people report receiving suspicious mails from your account)
- You've received a ransomware demand or other threatening email

Web

- There's unusual content on the company website
- The company website is slow to load
- Your browser keeps redirecting you against your will

System

- Your computer is running slower than usual
- You're seeing unusual pop-ups or ads
- Your computer shuts down and/or restarts randomly
- You can't log on to the company network

Network

- You try to access a file or folder but it's unexpectedly encrypted
- The network is slower than usual
- Programs are opening, closing and crashing automatically and/or randomly

Much of this list can be summarized in one sentence, if you need an easy way to drive the message home:

"If my computer is slow, keeps crashing, or my email's behaving strangely, I will stop using it immediately and tell X."

In which 'X' is probably you, but it could be a team of people or someone else with responsibility for IT security.