



AGCOM INSURANCE~SERVICE ABOVE THE REST~

GROWING

ABOVE THE REST

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Attention Business Owners! Cyber Liability - What is it?

By Sheryl Leonard

According to an article published by AAG IT Services (June 2019), last year, Ginni Rometty, IBM's Chair, President and CEO, said: "Cybercrime is the greatest threat to every company in the world." And she was right.

- There is a hacker attack every 39 seconds.
- 43% of cyber-attacks target small business

The average dollar amount for a single cyber-attack on a small business is \$38,000 and that cost could soar to \$55,000 and above with the indirect costs you may experience.

- Since 2013, there have been 3,809,448 records stolen from breaches every day.
- Over 75% of the health care industry has been infected with malware over the last year.

- 95% of cyber security breaches are due to human error.

With evolving technology comes evolving hackers. Understanding the cyber terminology, threats and opportu-

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AM I COVERED
FOR...

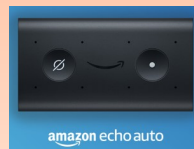
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ECHO AUTO

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Crop & Farm Expertise

Sheryl sheds light on crop & farm concerns from a farmer's perspective. AgCom is also a Farm Certified Agency for Nationwide Ag.

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Attention Business Owners! Cyber Liability - What is it?

By Sheryl Leonard

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ities is critical for every person in every business across all industries.

You may use, store, send, or receive electronic data. This data may include information that belongs to your business, like sales projections and tax records. It may also include data that belongs to other people, such as customers, employees, and vendors. Examples of other people's data are customer payment records and employees' social security numbers.

If electronic data stored on your computer system is lost, stolen, or compromised, the cost of restoring it can be significant. Moreover, your company may be liable for damages to third parties whose data has been stolen. You may also incur notification expenses if your state requires you to inform those affected by a data breach. You can protect your business against the

costs associated with data breaches by purchasing a cyber liability policy.

What Is Cyber Liability Coverage?

Cyber liability insurance covers financial losses that result from data breaches and other cyber events. Many policies include both first-party and third-party coverages.

First-party coverages apply to losses sustained by your company directly. An example is damage to your company's electronic data files caused by a hacker. It may also include the cost of notifying parties affected by the data breach by government statutes or regulations and the cost of hiring an attorney to assess your obligations under applicable laws and regulations. Some policies cover the cost of providing credit monitoring services for those affected by the breach. Some also cover the cost of setting up and operating a call center.

Third-party coverages apply to claims against you by people who have been injured as a result of your actions or failure to act. For instance, a client sues you for negligence after his personal data is stolen from your computer system and released online. Cyber liability policies typically include various property and crime coverages. They also cover certain costs, such as notification expenses.

If you are a business owner, please give us a call today to discuss this important but often misunderstood and neglected coverage. We are in business to keep you in business!



amazon echo auto

Announcing the Nationwide Echo Auto Promotion

If you receive an email from Nationwide offering a free Echo Auto — it's real! For all new auto customers, the offer will be sent within 30 days of issue. For current auto customers who have SmartRide (ask your agent to sign up), a teenage driver, or Roadside Assistance, the offer should be sent soon. Feel free to call us with questions or clarification.

Am I covered for... Personal identity theft?

by Cheryl Ellis

You put a check in your mailbox for the electric company and someone steals the envelop and all of your information, using it to clean out your checking account. Are you covered? You lose your phone that has all of your passwords and connects to your bank through their app. Someone finds it and moves all of your money into their own account. Are you covered? A criminal purchases your identifying information off the dark web and opens 4 new credit card accounts running the balances up to a total of \$50,000. Are you covered?

You're not going to like this answer... but probably not. At least not through your personal homeowner's policy or you may have a very limited amount of coverage there. (As always, check your individual policy. Each company varies *greatly* on this coverage.)

For example, my personal homeowners policy includes up to \$1000 in coverage due to theft of a credit or debit

card or forgery. It specifically excludes members of the household (think teenager stealing your card and hitting the ATM) or anyone who was given permission to use the card. This does *not* offer any coverage in the case of an identity theft. And... \$1000 is a drop in the bucket compared to the amounts described above. Higher limits are available for purchase up to \$25,000.

Another company we represent automatically includes \$5,000 in coverage for "identity fraud". They promise to be your "personal advocate" to restore your identity. They also provide this service if your identifying documents were lost or destroyed during a natural disaster. We applaud them for adding this helpful coverage at no additional charge. Higher limits are available for purchase.

The silver lining? A case like the ones above probably *are* covered by your bank or the credit card company. Unfortunately, the burden is on you to prove that it was not you who opened the credit cards, purchased a subscription to CyberGhost VPN, or bought \$500 worth of Build-a-Bear gift cards (true story -- happened on my checking account). It can be a time-consuming affair to restore your good name.

What can you do? Keep a close watch on your accounts and credit history (www.annualcreditreport.com offers a free credit report from each of the 3 reporting agencies once a year). Report anything suspicious immediately. And read Shari's article for helpful tips on protecting yourself!



**Join our
Giveaway!**



In January 2020, we're giving away a trip to Vegas and you have all year 2019 to enter to win! Every month, this piggy bank will be hidden somewhere in the newsletter. It could be hidden in a photo, article or even our recipe! Click on the piggy bank & fill out the survey form — you just entered to win! There may be other chances to find the piggy bank on our other social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or our website), so watch all of our news. One lucky winner will receive a trip for 2 to Las Vegas. No purchase necessary to win.



*Actual
size
(no you
cannot
click
this one
& win!)*

Am I Covered For...?

A lifelong learner and insurance professional, Cheryl loves to research and answer your insurance questions. Submit yours anytime.



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Protecting Your Information

by Shari Yungbluth

In today's digital world we can look up a place to eat, find directions to the nearest shop, or find a business' phone number all with a couple clicks. While living in a digital world makes life easier, there is also the reality that your personal information can be stolen with just a couple clicks. Here are some tips to keep your information safe while interacting online:

- Don't use the same username and password for all accounts
- Use a strong password that contains upper/lower case letters, number or special characters
- Limit the amount of information you share online-such as your phone number, address, family member names, your date of birth, etc.
- Keep your social media profile settings as private as possible

What's the Diff?

Shari will focus on explaining the difference between coverages that you might have on your policy and other choices for your insurance.



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- Protect your mobile devices with passwords
- Be aware of your surroundings when logging into accounts in a public place
- Be cautious of what you look at while on public wi-fi access

Here are a few offline tips for keeping your identity safe:

- Shred receipts, credit offers, account statements, insurance cards, and old credit/debit cards
- Review your accounts often for unusual charges or activity
- Store personal information in a safe place
- Avoid carrying your Social Security Card unless it is needed
- Be careful when asked to verify your information. If you receive a phone call or email asking you to verify information, get the name of the company/person calling, hang up and look up the phone number for them and call them back. Just because someone calls and says they are from Capitol One or your bank and they know your name, doesn't mean that is who they are with. Call the phone number you locate and let the person know you received a call. If it is legitimate, they should be able to tell you and you can then proceed with finding out why they were contacting you.

CARAMEL CORN

FROM CHERYL ELLIS

INGREDIENTS

7 to 8 c. popped popcorn
3/4 c. packed brown sugar
6 Tbsp butter
3 Tbsp light corn syrup
1/4 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp vanilla

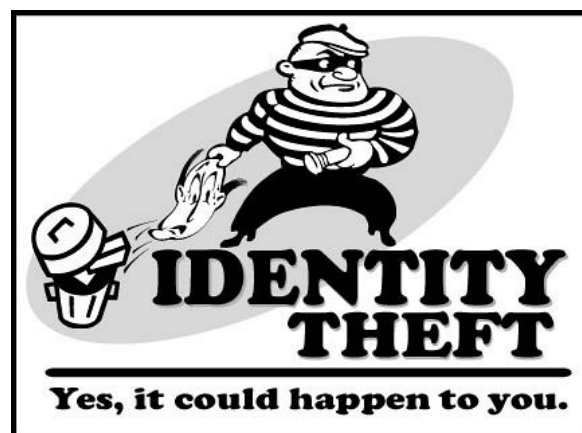
Remove all unpopped kernels. Put popcorn into a 17x12x2 in baking or roasting pan. To save on cleaning, line with foil.

In medium saucepan mix brown sugar, butter & corn syrup. Cook & stir over medium heat until mixture boils. Continue boiling at a moderate, steady rate without stirring for 5 minutes.



Remove pan from heat. Stir in soda & vanilla. Pour mixture over popcorn; stir gently to coat. Bake at 300degrees for 15 minutes. Stir mixture; bake 5 minutes more. Spread corn on a large piece of greased foil to cool. Store tightly covered.

No storage needed for this treat at our house! It's usually gone before it cools completely!
-Cheryl



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Agency Owner, Sheryl Leonard, pictured with her family at a 5k Run to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness. Sheryl is a 6 year breast cancer survivor!

Breast Cancer is the 2nd most common form of cancer in women
1 in 8 women born today will develop breast cancer
Be sure to get your recommended screenings
on time, every time!

SURVEY

Please take 2 minutes to let us know how we're doing.

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