

Equip Yourself To Securely Work From Home



CyberPolicy, a REALTOR Benefits® Program partner, is committed to help REALTORS® and REALTOR®-owned brokerages plan for, prevent and insure against cyber crime targeting the real estate industry with educational and cybersecurity resources.

Here's an interesting fact: Many cybersecurity breaches are caused by real estate professionals.

Yes, you read that correctly. The same professionals that enable the real estate industry to run are also a primary avenue of risk. Human error, gullibility, and negligence account for a surprisingly high number of cyber attacks in real estate. This is a fact that many brokerages are quick to address in the office, but slow to respond in the field.

Remote work presents security challenges for employers in virtually every industry, and real estate is no exception. But the rapid adoption of remote work pushed by the pandemic has outpaced the cybersecurity measures needed to protect this style of business. Here are four straightforward strategies that you can implement into your brokerage's remote work policy that will strengthen the security of your operation.

Put device security first - You can't control which WiFi networks your agents use at home or in the field. But, you can emphasize the importance of securing the devices that they are using. Implement protocols requiring everyone to keep their operating systems, firewalls, and antivirus software up to date. It may seem obvious to keep everything up to date, but this can be an annoying task that is frequently overlooked.

Keep work data on work computers - Discourage your agents from conducting work on multiple personal devices. The likelihood of anyone implementing and maintaining the security measures found in the office on all their devices is very slim. The use of inadequately secured devices can open security gaps that will put the entire brokerage at risk. Instruct everyone to dedicate one computer and one smart phone to work purposes only. Keep leisure activities like streaming videos and shopping on a different device.

Manage smart phones - Smart phones have changed the way we work, but many brokerages have not enacted cybersecurity protocols to match. Encourage everyone to exercise caution while using a personal phone for business purposes. It's convenient to send off an email on the fly, but older phones or those with outdated operating systems pose a risk.

Obtain cyber liability insurance - Lastly, you'll want to invest in cyber insurance from a reputable provider. While these suggestions can assist in keeping your brokerage and clients safe, there's nothing you can do to eliminate the threat entirely. Nevertheless, cyber insurance can help cover any damages caused by cyber crime targeting you and your clients. Visit [CyberPolicy's page](#) or give CyberPolicy a call at (844) 293-7440 to learn more about the cyber liability insurance program available exclusively to REALTOR®-owned brokerages through NAR's REALTOR Benefits® Program.

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