

Cyber Incident Response Plan



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- A cyber incident response plan is a document that describes how a company **prevents**, **detects**, **manages**, and **recovers** from cyber incidents such as hacking attacks, ransomware, data breaches, or system outages.
- The plan functions as an operational playbook designed to ensure rapid, coordinated, and correct action when something goes wrong.

→ Purpose and Scope

→ Purpose:

- Prevent and manage cyberattacks.
- Minimize the impact on production, data, and customers.
- Ensure rapid response, communication, and recovery.

→ Scope:

- All IT systems, production management systems, ERP, CRM, networks, servers, and cloud services.
- All employees, contractual partners, and external suppliers with access to systems.

Roles and Responsibilities (examples)

| Roles | Responsibilities | Contact information | Backup |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Crisis Management Team Leader | Overall decision-making during a cyber crisis | Name Telephone E-mail | CEO |
| IT-Manager | Technical handling of attacks, isolation, and recovery | Name Telephone E-mail | IT-support |
| Responsible for communication | Internal and external communication | Name Telephone E-mail | Communications staff member / CEO |
| HR-Manager | Handling of personnel and security procedures | Name Telephone E-mail | HR-staff member |
| Responsible for Compliance / GDPR | Reporting to authorities and customers | Name Telephone E-mail | Legal advisor (internal/external) |

Action Plan (Checklist) in Case of Suspected Cyberattack

- Isolate affected systems (disconnect from the network).
- Inform the IT manager and the crisis management team.
- Stop the spread (disable accounts, change passwords).
- Assess the impact (IT, production, data).
- Restore systems from backup.
- Communicate internally/externally according to the plan.
- Document the incident.

Incident Response Plan – if the Worst Happens

| Incident | Classification | What do we do? (reactive action) | Responsible (examples) |
|---|----------------|--|--|
| Phishing attempt / suspicious e-mail | Low | Warn the recipient and other employees. Report the incident to IT. Delete the email and any links. | IT-Manager |
| Malware/virus on a workstation | Medium | Isolate the infected machine from the network. Run antivirus/malware scanning. Identify and remove malicious files. Evaluate whether other systems are affected. | IT-Manager |
| Ransomware attack on production systems | High | Immediately isolate all affected systems. Activate the incident response plan. Inform the crisis management team and management. Restore systems from secure backups. Notify authorities, if relevant. | IT-Manager/Crisis Management Team Leader |
| Data breach / compromise of customer data | High | Identify which data is affected. Inform management and the data protection officer (GDPR). Notify affected customers and authorities within legally required timeframes. Implement security measures to prevent further access. | IT-Manager/Crisis Management Team Leader |

Communication Plan (examples)

| Target group | Channel | Responsible | Message | Timing |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Employees | E-mail, telephone, intranet | HR / Responsible for Communication | Instructions, updates | Immediately after the incident |
| Customers | E-mail, telephone, website | Responsible for Communication | Inform about delays and data incidents | Within 4 hours of the incident |
| Suppliers | E-mail, telephone | Purchasing | Status of deliveries / system access | Immediately after the incident |
| Authorities | E-mail, telephone | Crisis Management Team Leader / Compliance / CEO | Statutory reporting | As soon as necessary |

Preventive (Proactive) Actions (Examples)

1. Antivirus and firewall on all devices.
2. Network monitoring.
3. MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication) on critical systems. Identity must be verified using two or more different types of evidence (factors) to gain access to data/systems.
4. Patch and update policy (a patch is an update to software).
5. Security testing / penetration testing.
6. Backup of critical systems and data: daily, tested, offline + cloud.
7. Awareness training for employees in phishing and social engineering.

Reactive Strategies

- Incident response plan with roles and step-by-step actions.
- Isolation of infected systems.
- Restoration from backup.
- Communication to employees, customers, and authorities.
- Evaluation and updating of security policies.

Training and Test (examples)

- Simulation of cyber attacks (phishing, malware, ransomware) 1-2 times a year.
- Training of crisis staff and IT personnel.
- Documentation of exercises and evaluation of improvement points.

Maintenance (examples)

- Update contact information and roles every 6 months.
- Revise risk classification and strategies annually.
- Evaluate and update the plan after each exercise or real-life incident.
- Ensure all employees have access to the latest version.