

# All About...

## **The Hidden Dangers of Shortcuts in IT Security**

The National Cancer Institute in Maryland recently analyzed data from three major US health studies that gathered information on people's daily multivitamin use. They discovered that people who took daily multivitamins had a 4% higher mortality rate than those who didn't.

This surprising result echoes a scene from the movie *Grumpy Old Men*, where a character explains that, despite never exercising and having unhealthy habits, he has outlived many who followed strict health regimens. This highlights a crucial point: shortcuts to achieving meaningful, difficult goals often backfire.

In various aspects of life, including diet, we see that seemingly easy solutions can lead to significant problems. For example, "fat-free" or "sugar-free" labels might encourage overconsumption, negating their benefits. The Atkins diet, promising easy weight loss by avoiding carbs, led to various health issues due to an imbalanced intake. Similarly, weight-loss drugs like Ozempic have resulted in serious health complications, reminding us of the dangers of quick fixes, like Fen-Phen in the 1990s.

In the IT world, shortcuts are equally perilous. Many businesses attempt to meet compliance requirements or protect themselves from data breaches by taking the easiest, cheapest routes. It's a common mistake to rely on free antivirus or firewall software found through a quick search, underestimating the risks. Small businesses often believe they are too insignificant to be targeted, but cybercriminals target precisely these businesses, knowing they are less likely to have robust protections in place.

Another frequent error is entrusting IT management to an acquaintance or someone with basic tech knowledge but lacking professional expertise. When businesses upgrade to professional IT services, numerous inefficiencies and vulnerabilities are typically discovered. The issue is not the intent but the lack of necessary skills and resources, which significantly increases risk.

Not all shortcuts are detrimental, though. Entrusting IT matters to an experienced managed services provider can be the optimal "easy button." By partnering with professionals who understand your industry and its specific requirements, you can achieve compliance, security and operational efficiency without the associated stress.

Choosing the right IT provider is crucial. History shows us that experts can be convincing even when wrong, as demonstrated by past medical practices like lobotomies or financial scams like Madoff's Ponzi scheme. Therefore, it's vital to thoroughly vet potential IT partners, ask pertinent questions and seek testimonials from other clients.

When deciding which IT provider to let handle your network, take it seriously and don't blindly follow anyone's advice. It's not your responsibility to know every technical thing that needs to happen with your network, but it is your job to ask questions, request testimonials from other clients and hire someone trustworthy. Your company's security, reputation and, possibly, future depend on you not letting the wrong person come in and muck up your business.

If you're ready to hand off your IT to a reliable team of experts, our team of experts is ready to manage your network so you can focus on growing your business while we focus on what we do best: protecting it.

To get started and find out what you need, give us a call at 215-769-9980 or [click here](#) to book your FREE Cyber Security Risk Assessment now.