MARTIN (42) owns an SME in an unspecified country within the European Union. He worked hard for years and years to build his company, and is proud that he can say that he secured his position in the market. His company consists of three small departments with a total of 15 employees.

In the family-like atmosphere the employees shared one password believing this to be a flexible approach in order to substitute one another.

That is until one day Martin's secretary clicked on a suspicious email in his inbox. Two days later all customer data stored on their network was published. This had a catastrophic impact on the business, undermining the client relationship Martin had worked so hard to establish.

SECURE THE HARDWARE:
Protect all devices with a unique and complicated password and share it with the device user only.

USE ROBUST ANTI-MALWARE AND FIREWALL SOFTWARE:
While effective anti-malware tools catch and isolate software viruses when they strike, preventing these viruses from entering your database in the first place is vital.

ENCRYPT AND BACK UP DATA:
Be sure to encrypt all sensitive data, including customer information, employee information and all business data.

INVEST IN CYBER SECURITY INSURANCE:
Consider security as an opportunity and a necessary expense to protect the company from major possible damages.

CREATE A SECURITY-FOCUSED WORKPLACE CULTURE:
Educate your staff on the dangers of unsecured networks, organise mandatory trainings, teach avoidance of unsecured websites, discourage password sharing, restrict network admin rights.

Martin learnt how to be cyber aware through his bad experiences, but you do not have to wait until your first attack.

CYBER SECURITY STARTS FROM EACH SINGLE CITIZEN.
SUPPORT OUR WORK AT THE ECHO PROJECT TO ACT TOGETHER FOR A MORE SECURE EUROPE TO:

1. INCREASE AND SPREAD KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS ON CYBER THREATS.
2. CREATE AND MAINTAIN A SOLID KNOWLEDGE BASE ON SECTORIAL AND INTER-SECTORIAL APPROACHES FOR CYBERSECURITY.
3. DEVELOP PRACTICES AND METHODS AND IMPLEMENTING INSTRUMENTS TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTION.

ECH
European network of Cybersecurity centres and competence Hub for Innovation and Operations