

Tradies urged to be on guard against scammers after Total Tools data leak

Small trade businesses must be on alert for cyber attacks and review their digital security measures after a data leak hit major Australian hardware chain Total Tools.

COSBOA CEO Luke Achterstraat has warned businesses in the construction and trades industry of the threat of secondary attacks following revelations of a data leak which could affect more than 38,000 customers.

“It is critical for tradespeople and anyone in the construction industry with online hardware business accounts to be on heightened alert for suspicious activity in the coming hours, days and weeks, as cyber criminals try to use the stolen data for nefarious purposes,” he said.

“We are warning businesses to be aware of scams and secondary attacks and take steps to secure your sensitive data, finances and client information. Enrolling in the free Cyber Wardens program, supported by the Federal government, only takes two minutes to help every small business and their employees protect themselves from cyber attacks.”

Customer data including names, credit card details, email addresses, Total Tools passwords, mobile numbers and shipping addresses have been compromised in the leak.

COSBOA and its member organisations, including Master Builders Association, the National Timber and Hardware Association, and the Master Grocers Association, are working together to alert small business owners and their employees to take immediate steps to protect their personal and business information.

The free [CyberWardens](#) eLearning program, funded by the Federal government, has been designed to help Australia’s 2.5 million small businesses fortify their digital doors against cyber crime.

Businesses concerned they have been targeted are urged to call the Australian Cyber Security Hotline on 1300 CYBER1 (1300 292 371).

For more information, please visit cyberwardens.com.au.

To arrange an interview please call 0466 027 957 or email media@cyberwardens.com.au

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Background

About Cyber Wardens

At Cyber Wardens, we are on a mission to ensure Australian small businesses operate in a cyber-safe environment.

By bolstering the cyber capabilities of people who work in small businesses, we make it easier for small businesses to increase their cyber posture to prevent attacks and be resilient to them. Our goal is simple — for cyber criminals to consider Australia 'closed for business'.

Cyber Wardens is a national initiative of the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA), supported by the Australian Government and an industry alliance led by Telstra, CommBank and the Australian Cyber Security Centre, to help protect Australia's 2.5 million small businesses from online threats.