

STARTUPS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Startup Tech Stack Essentials

Set it up right once, so growth does not mean rebuilding everything.

Most small businesses build their IT one emergency at a time. A few early decisions about identity, devices, and data save months of cleanup later and make investor and customer security questionnaires easy to answer.

How to use it: tick what you have in place today. Anything left unticked is a conversation worth having.

01 Foundations

- ☐ **One identity platform for email, files, and apps**
Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace, set up properly from day one.
- ☐ **Company-owned domain and admin accounts, not personal ones**
The founder's Gmail should not own anything.
- ☐ **Managed laptops with encryption and remote wipe**
Ship new hires a ready-to-go device.
- ☐ **Shared drives organized by team, not by person**
Data stays when people leave.
- ☐ **Password manager for the whole team**
No more spreadsheet of logins.

02 Security basics

- ☐ **Multi-factor authentication on every account**
Free and the most effective control there is.
- ☐ **Endpoint protection monitored 24/7**
Small companies get hit too.
- ☐ **Email security and phishing training**
Attackers impersonate founders to trick finance.
- ☐ **Payment and bank change verification by phone**
One fake invoice can cost more than a year of IT.
- ☐ **Backups of cloud email and files**
Microsoft and Google do not back up deleted data forever.

03 Ready to scale

- ☐ **Onboarding and offboarding checklist**
New hires productive on day one, departures cut off same day.
- ☐ **App and subscription inventory with owners**
Cut duplicate tools.
- ☐ **Written information security program (WISP)**
Required in Massachusetts under 201 CMR 17.00 if you hold residents' personal data.
- ☐ **Cyber insurance with the controls it requires in place**
Answer the questionnaire honestly.
- ☐ **Quarterly IT check-in as you grow**
Plan before headcount doubles.

Red flags we see most

- Company accounts are tied to someone's personal email.
- Everyone has admin rights.
- There is no multi-factor authentication.
- Nobody knows which apps the company pays for.

Where to start

Turn on multi-factor authentication and set up company-owned admin accounts this week. Everything else builds on that.

Want a second set of eyes?

Book a free 30-minute technical assessment. A senior engineer walks through this checklist with you and tells you what to fix first. No sales script, no obligation.

[Book a technical assessment](#)

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