

Where has your data been smeared? Top 5 cyber security tips for your business.

As more and more staff are working remotely, the frequency and intensity of cybercrime is on the rise. This is fertile territory for cyber fraudsters who know that the value of an organisation lies within its data.

Where does business data exist?

- Work-controlled computers: such as desktops, managed laptops, servers and, to a lesser extent, (hopefully managed) mobile devices such as tablets and smart phones. Some organisations use remote desktop systems, so all the data and applications stay on remote servers, and unless emailed externally, data never leaves the system. It doesn't matter if a user is in the office, abroad or at home - the systems don't change, and the data stays where it should be. [Business data should exist here.](#)
- Employees accessing data directly from their own computer, or other uncontrolled systems: this data is vulnerable to viruses and malware. Cryptolocker-style malware can infect local and remote data locking the business out of all its data. [Business data should not exist here.](#)

Top 5 security tips for your business

1. Make sure your remote systems have great connectivity

Take a good look at your users' home connectivity; even if a business has remote systems that work well while in the office, working from home can change that dynamic. If the remote connection, for example, a VPN, doesn't have sufficient capacity, or the user has poor bandwidth, then users will be tempted to bypass remote systems and download the data they're working on to their local system. Often the data is emailed to a private email system, so the business data is uncontrolled, and private emails tend to be at greater risk of compromise than business email accounts.

Tip for the employers: Ensure remote users have sufficient bandwidth and understand the risks of taking business data offline.

2. Have decent equipment for your team

If the business-supplied laptop is old and has been pulled out the cupboard as a last resort for a user, then the user will be tempted to use their own computer, which frustrates any efforts to manage risk with controlled hardware. We've all seen this before.

Tip for employers: The impact of a data breach far outweighs the cost associated with supplying your staff with updated equipment. Don't cut corners!

3. Educate and encourage secure practices

Exposure and data breaches are generally the result of innocent behaviours where there is a lack of awareness and understanding of requirements and risk. Staff may assume that the free ware virus software they are using is comprehensive and their pets name is a suitable password for their home network.

Tip for employers: If staff are using personal systems then the business needs to ensure that those devices have strong security - not only local anti-malware software, but perhaps the users' browsers should be directed through a business-owned proxy server so that that vector can be managed.

4. Create good policies

A business continuity policy will spell out what software and processes should be used. If your users innocently starts using alternative systems – for example, Slack when they should be using Microsoft Teams - then you've lost control of that data. Also make sure your password policies don't cause problems for remote users, and have a robust system for replacing multi-factor authentication hardware (or move to an app for that).

Tip for employers: Now is a great time to either fine-tune or create an excellent business continuity policy that covers people, policies and processes.

5. Enable good policies

Having good policies is critical, but it's equally important to communicate, educate, monitor and support.

Tip for employers: Make sure you are communicating to staff routinely and providing them with solutions that don't tempt them to work off the grid. Observe and refine your policies and procedures on an ongoing basis to ensure that they continue to work. Collect feedback from your employees to find out what they're experiencing – even the best policy in theory will fail if it's unachievable in practice.

We solve complex business problems

+61 2 8651 8700

Level 1 ▪ 25 King Street ▪ Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

ashstreet.com.au



Important to note:

This communication is intended to provide commentary and general information only. It is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all aspects of the matter referred to. It should not be relied upon as legal advice as to specific issues or transactions. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Andrew Calvin | IT, IP & Real Property

Andrew is an accomplished lawyer with over 30 years' experience in IT, IP and Real Property law. He has a very strong legal and commercial background in technology transactions, corporations and commercial property laws and has worked extensively in social media, procurement, systems integration, commercial property, construction, infrastructure, complex property development, intellectual property, dispute resolution and corporate governance related matters.

Andrew's strengths include offering strategic legal and business advice that is pragmatic and commercial.

These skills have been gained in international private practice (Phillips Fox/DLA Phillips Fox), a multi-national ASX-listed group, and Australian Federal and State corporations.

Andrew was in-house in Stockland Corporation Limited, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and head of property legal for Sydney Water Corporation, Australia's largest water utility with over 4,500 properties.



Associate Director | LLM LLB

E: acalvin@ashstreet.com.au
M: +61 435 093 520

About Ash St.

We are an independent professional services firm that provides you with integrated legal, compliance and other advisory services.

Established in 2013, we were founded to offer clients "The New Way" in professional services – one of the first of its kind. With this foresight and the application of our respective disciplines, high capability talent and agile commercial models we ensure our clients' complex business problems are solved.

Our senior lawyers have been trained by some of Australia's top-tier law firms and have assisted our domestic and international clients, from start-ups and sole traders through to globals, with their matters. They have in-depth experience in Mergers & Acquisitions; Corporate and Commercial Law; Governance, Compliance and Regulation; Finance; IT; IP; Real Property; Contracting; Projects and Infrastructure; Employment Law and Litigation.

Our mission is to help you convert the complex into opportunities. Visit ashstreet.com.au

We solve complex business problems

+61 2 8651 8700

Level 1 ▪ 25 King Street ▪ Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

ashstreet.com.au