RISK INSIGHTS Technology

Crendon Insurance Brokers

Portable Data Drive Risks

Portable data drives have become a popular way to save, store and share data because they are small and very convenient. They are available at most retailers and smaller ones, like USB thumb drives, are often given away as promotional items by many companies.

However, with their increasing popularity, highly skilled technology workers may forget to err on the side of caution when using them, exposing your organisation's data and systems to a security breach or malicious attack.

A Very Real Risk

The loss of confidential data due to an employee losing or misplacing a portable drive is unfortunately a relatively common occurrence. Many high profile companies have suffered a detrimental data breach like this, costing them the public's trust and expenses to repair and contain the damaging effects.

Implement and Enforce

Decide on a plan of action for handling any portable data drives within your organisation. Establish a protocol of password protecting and encrypting all drives to protect the sensitive data they can carry. Encryption will allow only computers with the encryption software installed to read and access the drive. This stops employees from accessing the drives on machines they are not supposed to, including home computers, preventing them from exposing the drive to harmful viruses or malware on their computer or misusing the sensitive data on the drive.

Other security measures available include biometric access technology, which requires a fingerprint scan to use the drive.

Create a policy regarding portable data drives and educate employees to protect against potentially hazardous risks.

Educate and Remind

Inform your employees of the risks associated with portable data drives and your company's policy regarding how to protect them. Remind employees of these risks and policies through posters, email reminders and notes on your organisation's intranet.

Even though employees know the facts, they often forget or believe that it wouldn't happen to them. If someone lets down their guard even once, it can put an entire organisation at risk.

Contact **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd** for more information on how to minimise your technology risks.