



**Regarding:**

**Cybercrime and law firms: Facts of the matter**

**Presented at:**

**Defending Law Firms from Cyber Attack Conference (organised by Salford University) at Etihad Stadium, Manchester**

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- 🍁 Compliance Plans & Risk Registers
- 🍁 Lexcel, CQS, ISO (inc. 27001) and SQM consultancy & assessment
- 🍁 Authoring office and quality manuals
- 🍁 Embedding quality and compliance processes
- 🍁 Risk management (including AML and cybercrime)
- 🍁 File review service and analysis
- 🍁 Remedial action following audits (including SRA)
- 🍁 Training in risk, compliance and management










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- 🍁 The legal sector is particularly vulnerable to cybercrime as organised gangs are attracted by the large sums of money being moved to and from firms (Law Society)
- 🍁 Law firms are under a persistent threat from criminals seeking inside information (Law Society)
- 🍁 Recent press stories identify that law firms are the ‘soft underbelly’ to their client’s data (Law Society)
- 🍁 Cybercriminals consider law firms to be a “backdoor” to the valuable data of their corporate clients (FBI)
- 🍁 If you openly demonstrate weaknesses in your approach to cyber security by failing to do the basics, you will experience some form of cyber attack (GCHQ)

-  1 first tier risk to National Security over next 5 years (NSRA – Nov 2015)
-  10 age of Finnish boy who found flaw in Facebook
-  12 age of youngest buyer of virus in 2015
-  17 average age of ‘cyber attackers’ (NCA)
-  49-200 days to detect a security breach
-  63% of data breaches come from internal sources, either lack of control, errors, or fraud
-  80% of online attacks preventable if firms followed simple guidance on the use of information systems (GCHQ)
-  >100% increase in recorded crimes when online fraud and cybercrime taken into account for first time 2014/15
-  250k new ‘malwares’ appear each day worldwide

## October 2014 to April 2016

-  **£85M** stolen from law firms
-  **150** successful 'raids' on law firms
-  **1500** 'attempts' on law firms (QBE)
-  **349** reports of bogus law firms or individuals in 2012
-  **726** in 2015 (+105%) (SRA)
-  **19** security breach reports to ICO from legal organisations Oct-Dec 2015 (ICO)
-  **48** 'elite' law firms hacked in M&A information (Gazette – April 2016)



## **Reputational (Strategic)**

- “Don’t trust that lot with your information.”
- “Local solicitors lose £thousands through hacking.”

## **Operational**

- Disruption to services e.g. DDoS attacks
- Mistakes leading to attacks and losses

## **Financial**

- How much does it cost the firm? (£4-60k +)

## **Regulatory**

- Lots!

## **Insurance**

- Will they still want us, and if so, what will they require of us?

It is important that directors and owners realise they do not need to be cyber experts to understand the risk but do have policies and processes to deal with any situation...

(IoD)

## **DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998**

### **Schedule 1 – Part 1**

### **‘The Eight Principles’**

#### **PRINCIPLE 7**

Appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

## SRA Principles 2011

- 7 Comply with your legal and regulatory obligations ....
  
- 8 Run your business ..... in accordance with proper governance and sound financial and risk management principles
  
- 10 Protect client money and assets











- O(4.1)** Keep the affairs of clients confidential
- O(7.2)** Effective systems and controls comply with Principles, rules and outcomes
- O(7.3)** Identify, monitor and manage risks to compliance ..... and take steps to address issues identified
- O(7.4)** You maintain systems and controls for monitoring ... risks to money and assets entrusted to you by clients and others, and you take steps to address issues identified
- O(7.5)** Comply with ..... AML and data protection legislation
- O(7.6)** Train individuals to maintain a level of competence

- 7.1** Any breach of the rules must be remedied promptly upon discovery.
  
- 7.2** The duty to remedy breaches rests ... also on all the principals in the firm. This duty extends to replacing missing client money from the principals' own resources ... whether or not a claim is subsequently made on the firm's insurance or the Compensation Fund

## **SRA WARNING**

If you identify that money is missing, you have a duty to take steps to ensure it is replaced, in full, immediately, from your own resources or a loan if necessary regardless of insurance claims. If not, intervention highly likely.

## COMMUNICATIONS – ELECTRONIC SECURITY GROUP (GCHQ)

-  Establish Information Risk Management Regime
-  Maintain configuration security
-  Ensure network security
-  Manage user privileges
-  Education and awareness
-  Incident management procedures and processes
-  Malware prevention
-  Monitor IT systems and usage
-  Control removable media
-  Home and mobile working strategy



1. Boundary firewalls and internet gateways
2. Secure configuration
3. Access control
4. Malware protection
5. Patch management

From October 2014, Cyber Essentials became mandatory for all suppliers of central Government contracts which involve handling personal information and providing certain ICT products and services.



- 🍁 Register of relevant information assets of the practice and clients
- 🍁 Protection and security of the information assets
- 🍁 Retention and disposal of information
- 🍁 Firewalls
- 🍁 Secure configuration of network devices
- 🍁 Management of user accounts
- 🍁 Register of all software used by the practice (whitelisting)
- 🍁 Training for personnel on information security
- 🍁 Planned updating and monitoring of software



- 🍁 Mobile devices and social media applications are IT security's weakest links  
(Cyber Defence Report 2015)
  
- 🍁 **SOCIAL ENGINEERING** - psychological manipulation of people into performing actions or divulging confidential information - a type of confidence trick for the purpose of information gathering, fraud, or system access

- ✿ Negligent employees not following security policies, and devices they use in the workplace are greatest source of endpoint risk
- ✿ Malware targets mobile endpoints
- ✿ Laptops and smartphones are biggest endpoint security threat - insecure mobile devices in workplace increased significantly
- ✿ Employees' use of mobile devices and commercial cloud applications increase endpoint risk significantly
- ✿ More personal devices connected to the network (BYOD)
- ✿ Endpoint security is becoming a more important priority

## INSURANCE ACT 2015

The insured must make to the insurer a fair presentation of the risk, containing:

- 🍁 Every material circumstance which the insured knows or ought to know, or
- 🍁 Giving the insurer sufficient information to put it on notice that it needs to make further enquiries re those material circumstances
- 🍁 And in a reasonably clear and accessible manner and
- 🍁 In which every material representation as to a matter of fact is substantially correct, and every material representation as to a matter of expectation or belief is made in good faith

- 🍁 What does the insurer define as cybercrime?
- 🍁 What exclusions, e.g. perpetrator using firm's equipment?
- 🍁 Any stipulations about the firm's protection systems?
- 🍁 Any stipulations about maintaining security systems, e.g. software updates, anti-virus and patches?
- 🍁 Homeworking?
- 🍁 Terrorism?
- 🍁 Retrospective cover?

- 🍁 What is likelihood of occurrence?
- 🍁 What would be the impact?
- 🍁 On our Risk Register?
- 🍁 If so, how high? - If not, why not?
- 🍁 Is it in our BCP? - If not, why not?
- 🍁 Who is responsible if something happens?
- 🍁 Are we ready?
- 🍁 Outsourcing!!!???
- 🍁 External website developers & hosts!!!???

**E**ndpoints and end-users

**P**atches (including updates), policies (and strict enforcement)

**A**ccess controls

**C**yber Essentials

**T**raining

This presentation is free to download at:

 [www.pda-legal.com/cyber-crime](http://www.pda-legal.com/cyber-crime)

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