

UK firms at risk from IT SECURITY

It seems that UK businesses are becoming much shrewder when it comes to protecting the security of their companies' information. But are their employees the weak link in the chain?

Despite UK businesses devoting more capital to information security policies (seven out of eight companies maintain they have IT security policies in place), there is an ever growing threat of private information being leaked by complacent staff.

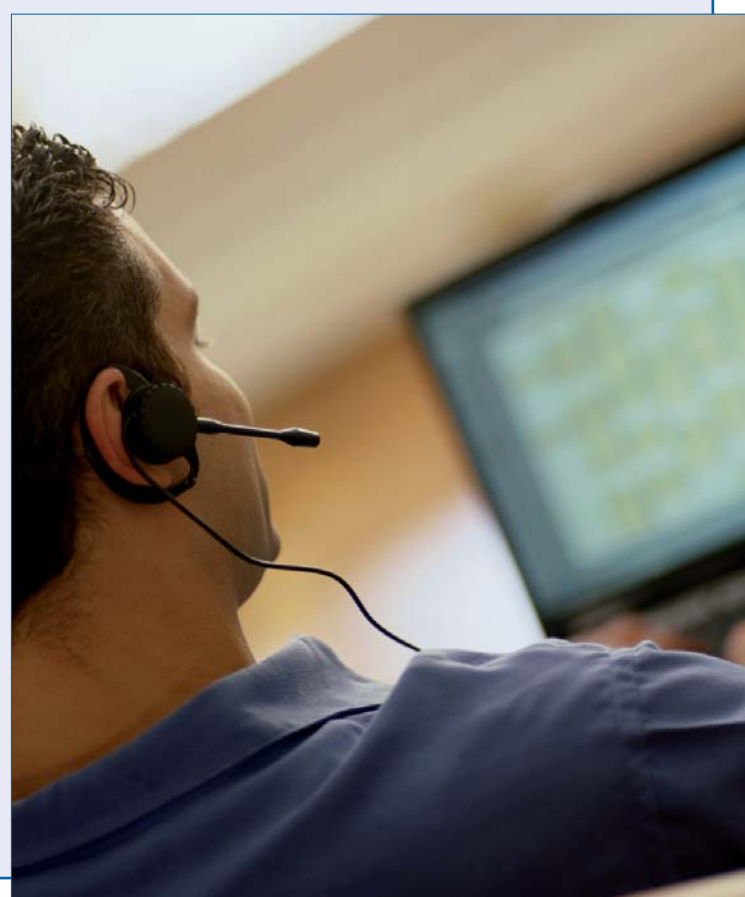
New research carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers (The 2008 Information Security Breaches Survey) claims that such policies are being ignored leading to staff being targeted by social engineering attacks.

More than 54% of UK businesses allow employees access to their networks remotely (which has grown from 36 per cent in 2006). This suggests businesses are placing an ever growing trust in their workforce encouraging employees to learn the system to improve their effectiveness.

This has also led to issues with staff posting confidential information on these sites even to the extent of employee's slandering companies on their own social networking sites.

The report (out on behalf of the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform)

concludes that technology controls are not enough to quash this problem on their own and a greater emphasis on raising awareness to these policies is needed, so that security awareness is clear throughout all areas of the organisation.



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