



National Survey Uncovers Data Breach Vulnerabilities in the Workplace

Fellowes' Workplace Data Security Report Reveals Habits and Opinions About Information Protection

Itasca, Ill. (March 22, 2012) Many business professionals don't realize that when their company's confidential information is at risk, so too is the information of its clients, vendors, customers and employees.

Released today, Fellowes' Workplace Data Security Report¹ found that 81 percent of office employees have access to paper documents containing sensitive workplace information, yet only 62 percent cite their company as having a data security policy on which employees are trained. Some of those untrained employees may be leaving their companies vulnerable to a security breach, as the survey also reports that nearly a quarter of employees leave sensitive paper documents on top of their desks.

According to the study, office employees may unwittingly contribute to a digital or paper-based security breach by practicing other risky behaviors:

- Approximately one in four (26 percent) leave their computers unlocked when away from their desk
- Fifteen percent throw paper documents containing sensitive information in the trash
- Only 60 percent maintain a secure firewall
- Less than half of respondents (44 percent) ensure their mail is safe by sending it through a secure mailbox

"Whether electronic or in paper form, confidential information in the workplace is a hot item for theft and the methods employed by criminals to obtain this information are constantly evolving," said John Sileo, national identity theft expert. "With smart prevention measures, you can help your company avoid a costly breach that can lead to personal consequences – like identity theft."

Smart Practices for the Workplace

Having learned a great deal from suffering a security breach within his own business, Sileo travels the country educating businesses about ways to prevent the crime.

"Data protection can be simple as long as the proper procedures are in place and widely practiced," continued Sileo. He offers five key pieces of advice when speaking with business employees:

1. Lock your office when you leave for the day to prevent anyone accessing it after hours
2. Ensure your computer is locked with a secure password containing a unique combination of letters and numbers

¹ Results are based on 1,000 surveys completed by full-time office workers on behalf of the Fellowes, Inc. between March 5 and 9, 2012 by Toluna Research. Respondents were drawn from a national online panel maintained by Toluna, and completed the survey online. The margin of error is 3.1%

3. Ask your IT department to check that your firewall is secure and up-to-date
4. Don't leave paper documents on your desk or in common printing areas and store important documents in a locked filing cabinet
5. Shred no-longer-needed documents with a Cross-Cut shredder, like Fellowes' 79Ci

Sileo has been a longtime user of Fellowes shredders, both at home and in the office. "I always look to Fellowes' Cross-Cut machines to ensure my documents are properly destroyed. Fellowes is also the only brand on the market that offers 100% Jam Proof technology, making my shredding jobs productive and hassle-free. No one has time to sit around and fix a paper jam."

For more information about data breach prevention and Fellowes' 79Ci, visit www.fellowes.com.

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About Fellowes, Inc.

Fellowes, Inc. offers an extensive range of products to equip the workspace, including paper shredders, binders, laminators, desktop accessories and record storage solutions. Founded in 1917 by Harry Fellowes and headquartered in Itasca, Illinois, Fellowes, Inc. employs more than 1,200 people throughout the world and has operations in 15 countries. Fellowes products are now readily available in over 100 countries across the globe. For more information, visit www.fellowes.com.

About John Sileo

John Sileo is an award-winning author and international speaker on the dark art of deception (identity theft, data privacy, social media manipulation) and its polar opposite, the powerful use of trust, to achieve success. He is CEO of The Sileo Group, which advises teams on how to multiply performance by building a culture of deep trust. For more information, visit www.thinklikeaspy.com.