Crime prevention advice for
Flexible working and BYOD

WARWICKSHIRE BUSINESS WATCH

With the development of technology and the increasing capabilities brought about with it, flexible working is becoming ever more popular. Being able to work from anywhere increases efficiency and provides great potential for growth. However, as with the majority of technological developments, it also brings about some issues which need to be treated with caution.

The main threat to businesses from accessing information away from the business network is the potential for eavesdropping on the communication between the device and business network.

Remotely connecting to a company network

Depending on the size of the business, this will determine which method of access you should use. Some of the most common ways to access your business network away from site include:

- Virtual Private Network (VPN)
- Software specific programmes (Windows Remote Desktop)
- Remote Email Access

A virtual private network allows you to access business files and data away from the business using a private connection. Although this is a secure method of connecting into the business it is important to ensure the basic security protocols remain in place such as passwords, anti-virus etc.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

As mentioned above the growth in technology has brought about many opportunities, one of these is the ability to 'bring your own device'. Although this seems like a great idea, you must seriously consider the following:

- Is it necessary for employees to use their own devices?
- Using third party devices means it is difficult to determine the safety of the devices and whether they carry viruses.
- Would employees using their own devices reduce productivity?
- Consider using an Acceptable Use Policy.
- What would the cost implications be in terms of data limits and technical support?

When considering implementing flexible working/bring your own device policies it is worth considering a risk assessment to weigh up the benefits and implications of making such changes and then also putting in place disaster management plans to limit damage in the event of a breach of cyber security.

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