Advancements in Technology Organizational Liability

Without question, data security is at the forefront of discussions be it in the board room or on the national news. This is even more prevalent when news stories are generated due to the inadvertent release of sensitive information from a computer, server, phone, etc., that had been dispositioned and the organization thought was no longer in use. Unprecedented advancements in storage technologies and capacity such as the embedded Multimedia Card (eMMC), Solid State Drive (SSD) along with the introduction of the Heat Assisted Magnetic Recording (HAMR) and Microwave Assisted Magnetic Recording (MAMR) drives are making data sanitization a challenging task. Current identification and processing methods have proven to be ineffective with these advanced technologies. The volume of data contained in these devices is staggering, driving a redefinition of what data is sensitive and the importance of how data containing devices are treated during the end-of-life secure destruction processes.

Not only are there inherent organizational liabilities with IT storage devices while in-use from things such as cyber-attacks and insider threats, but the liability carries on with the device after the service life of the equipment has been dispositioned. The implementation of advanced technologies makes it extremely difficult to determine if the circuit board or other data bearing peripherals contains data or not. To guarantee proper sanitization of this equipment its imperative boards be processed, and drives be securely destroyed in the same manner as sensitive or classified drives. Given the liability associated with data loss, companies should update their ITAD procedures utilizing methods from the classified community to ensure integrity of the process. Technology has advanced, but at the same time the liability during the end-of-life processing has dramatically increased as well. Corporations should reevaluate their IT asset disposition procedures to include these advanced technologies and advanced methods of sanitization.

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