

When passwords are not enough

We all know the importance of keeping our business information safe from unauthorised snoopers, and often we use password protection to ensure this, but what happens when you copy your data onto an external disk or tape, surely the password is still good enough to protect the data?

The simple answer is, unfortunately, no.

Passwords can be hacked relatively easily by the informed thief. The difficult job for the data hacker is getting hold of your disks in the first place. However, this can also be an easy job, as so many businesses rely on individuals taking home boxes of backup disks to be stored in their garage, or even left in the boot of their car.

"I don't do that", I hear you cry. Well that's good, but if your premises was broken into you need to ensure that the disks the thieves leave with are completely useless to them. The way to ensure piece of mind on that score is to encrypt the data on the disks. Encryption is the act of encoding the data on your disks in such a way that only you have the correct key to decode it. Encryption gives you protection from internal unauthorized access, increased security when the data is sent by courier, and an increased level of confidentiality for customer data (thus meeting your requirements of the Data Protection Act and the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act).

It sounds like it might be expensive. For around £8,000 you could protect all your data with an encryption system like Paranoia. Compare the cost of this initial outlay to the fines imposed on:

- Los Alamos Nuclear Weapons Lab, \$3.3 million for loss of unencrypted computer files through theft
- Nationwide Building Society, £980,000 for loss of a laptop with unencrypted files through theft
- Choicepoint Inc, \$10 million, for a security breach in their database

So what you have to ask yourself is, do I feel lucky? With the sort of hefty fines breaches of data legislation can create, I wouldn't trust to luck, best to be a bit paranoid, and encrypt whatever you can.

Contact Storage Partners today to discuss your concerns and requirements. We are sure we can find the correct solution for you and your budget.

Tel: 024 7658 7300