What risk do you have with employees working from home?

There are many activities you partake in daily that have unrealized risk. Getting in your car, picking up groceries, taking your dog for a walk. Some of these you perform daily, while others may be every few days. Certain activities are more risky than others.

It is difficult to determine the full breadth of the risks you face with employees working from home. Many of the risks were already there. Working from home has increased the risk of a data breach for a variety of reasons.

Businesses have experienced a significant growth in remote workers. One study suggested that the average percentage of employees who could work from home was 17%. That has jumped to a staggering 44% in the past month.

This guidebook will list the 5 biggest Work From Home risks and their impact to your business. We will also provide some real-world steps you can take to protect your data and reduce the risk.

The Breach In The Dam

A small crack in the wall of a dam could lead to the entire dam's failure. If the crack gets repaired the integrity of the dam remains intact. If the crack gets neglected it will become a larger crack.

Vulnerabilities must get addressed when they are first noticed. Failure to plug security holes and introduce course correction will lead to disaster.

Business security was often conducted with the intent to repair any cracks in the dam. If there was a perceived hole or crack, the hole gets closed, until the next one appeared.

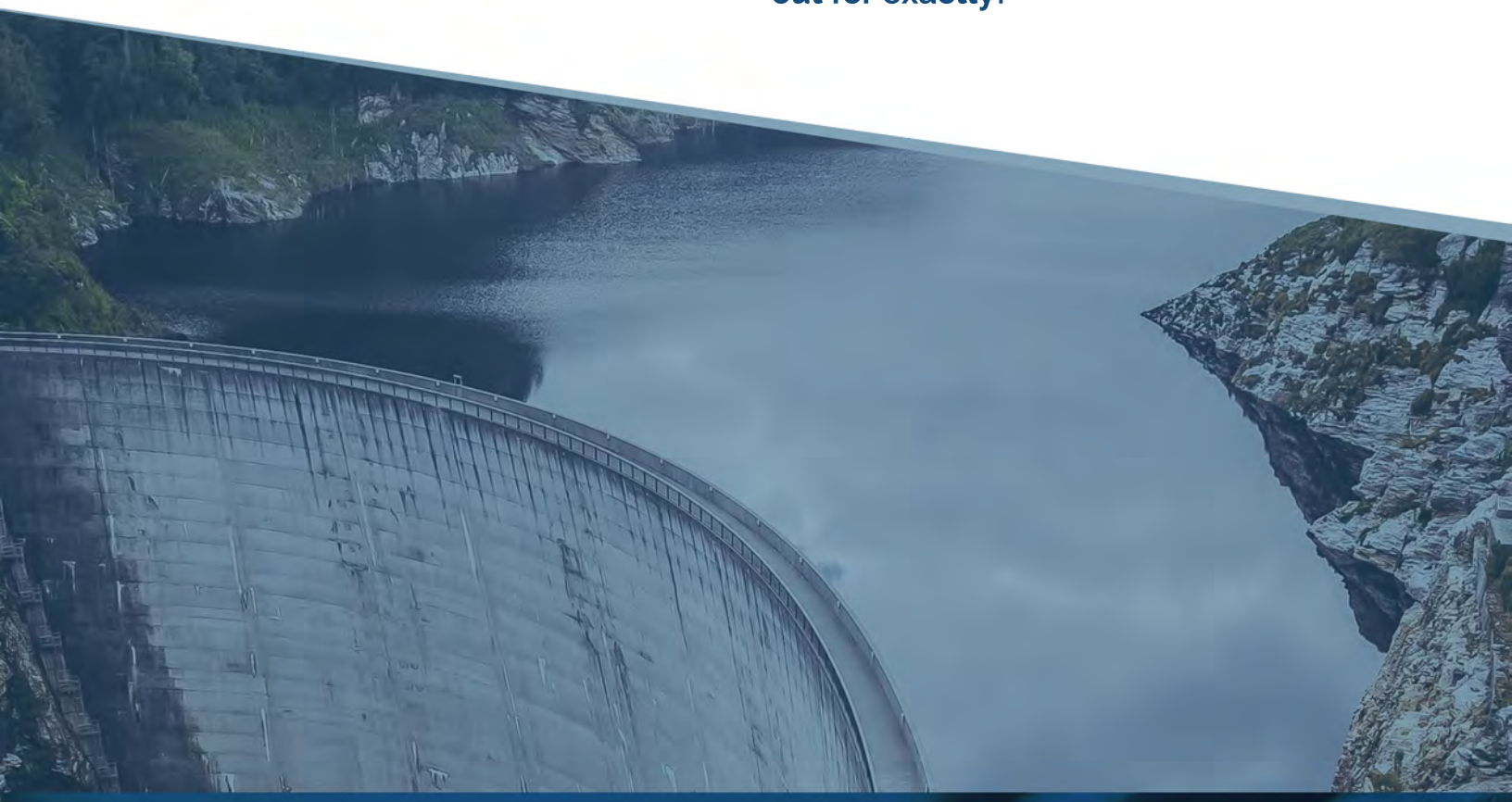
Reactive security is not a long term solution for data protection. Companies must remain proactive to have the best chance of success. The use of automation is on the verge of a necessity as threats become more sophisticated.

There are more factors contributing to the complexity of data protection. The Work From Home rush introduced risks. The point is, pinpointing where your data lives is now more difficult.

Knowing where your data lives is only one element of the equation. I.T. departments are avoiding the outdated operating systems, use of personal computers. Some are also failing to take steps to resolve backup issues.

The clock is ticking, and if action is not taken soon, companies are going to find out their level of risk the hard way.

So, what are the 5 biggest risks? What should your company be looking out for exactly?



RISK #1

The Use of Personal Computers for Business Use

A few short weeks ago, most employees had a home computer, and had a work computer. The home computer is for personal use, and the work computer is for their job. Then along came Covid-19, and everything got turned on its head.

Today personal computers are being used for both personal , and corporate use. The use of VPN's is at an all-time high, and accessing files or corporate networks remotely is mandatory.

There are several issues with the user of personal computers for business use, and we will list a few.

Insecure Web Browser Settings

The security settings of your work PC were set by your IT department. Chances are your home PC has default security settings. The default settings are less secure and pose a bigger risk.

The US CERT created a guide for securing your web browser. We recommend every business review the guide.

Outdated Operating Systems

The FBI lists computer and network intrusions at the top of their security risks. They increase the risk of an intrusion. IT departments should also have concerns with their employees home routers. You can read the full list of cyber security concerns here.

Sharing PCs with Family Members

Special care needs to happen when sharing a computer. Employees cannot walk away when their shift is over. No, they must disconnect from the corporate VPN, and log out of any systems. This will assist in preventing unauthorized access of corporate systems. It is their responsibility to avoid unauthorized access to company data.

RISK #2
Employees Home Network

RISK #3

Expired or Insufficient Anti-Virus Software

RISK #4

RISK #5

Remote Employees are Targets

BONUS RISK

Stolen Credentials

CONCLUSION