



EXPERTS WARN OF RISKS OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

IT experts have warned that social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace are potential security risks to companies.

It has been warned that a large number of Facebook profile pages contain user's current employment details, which could be used by cyber criminals to commit corporate fraud, or to enter company networks.

A survey found that 41% of Facebook users were prepared to divulge personal information to a complete stranger. However, firms are beginning to cotton on to the dangers, as a separate poll of 600 workers found that 43% were denied access to Facebook by their company, while 7% said that usage was restricted to specific business requirements only.

However, 50% of respondents said that their company did not block access to Facebook with 8% in fearing an employee backlash.

If workers are allowed to be given access to these sites, then it's imperative they are taught best practice to ensure they are not putting their personal and corporate data at risk. Five minutes spent learning the ins and outs of Facebook's privacy settings, for instance, could save a lot of heartache later.

More businesses are restricting access to these kinds of sites with companies increasingly looking to secure and control their worker's web activity because of the impact it can have on the company in terms of productivity, bandwidth and security. Employees' access to Facebook has already been banned by a number of large firms.

Are your handbooks up to date with an IT policy for your employees? For a free review of your contracts and handbooks, call today on 0870 240 1919 or email info@hrdept.co.uk

