

Risks of Bring Your Own Device

By Brian Von Hatten

More companies are faced with a workforce that wants to bring their own devices (“BYOD”) to work. One on-line journal cites a poll that finds that younger workers actually see bring your own device as a right rather than a privilege.¹ For a company considering a BYOD policy, there are risks involved. Some of the risks are as follows:

- **Security**-If users have network access on their tablet or mobile device, is the company providing adequate protection against either malicious attacks or rogue applications?
- **Lack of control**-If employees are using these devices for job-related use, then data stored on them is likely discoverable in the event of litigation. Is the company certain of its ability to capture and/or prevent the deletion of information?
- **Support**-Multiple device types equate to a larger number of possible equipment types and the need for a larger support knowledgebase.
- **Policy Management**-Can the company apply consistent and uniform policy objects across all device types or manufacturers?
- **Information Leakage**-From valuable intellectual property such as trade secret information to the data owned by a company’s customers, how can the company ensure an employee does not either intentionally take a piece valuable information?
- **Compliance**-Depending on the industry and regulations involved and in light of the above considerations, would the entity’s allowing a BYOD policy represent an appropriate level of diligence with respect to the security of customer information?

Companies may have various reasons for considering implementing a BYOD policy, but they should certainly consider the risks involved before doing so.



About the author Brian Von Hatten:

Brian represents many large and mid-market organizations on matters related to transactions, software licensing, and disputes. Brian’s focus includes substantial attention to complex information technology issues for companies of all sizes.

Get in touch: bvonhatten@scottandscottllp.com | 800.596.6176

¹ available at: <http://www.cbronline.com/news/mobile-and-tablets/young-workers-view-byod-as-a-right-not-a-privilege-190612>).