

## Data-breach disclosure law gets thumbs-up from IT

Information security is wrongly seen as an IT issue, rather than a risk and compliance issue that should be managed from the top, says security expert

BY ROB O'NEILL | AUCKLAND | TUESDAY, 5 JUNE, 2007

EMAIL PRINT

IT security executives have given a resounding thumbs-up to the introduction of data-breach disclosure laws in New Zealand.

In a snap poll conducted at last week's *Computerworld* Security Briefing, held in Auckland, almost all the IT executives surveyed indicated they would support a data-breach disclosure law, requiring organisations to notify affected customers when a breach occurred. Only a few indicated they were not sure whether they supported such a move, but none opposed such a law.

The result comes as Auckland-based consultancy Security-assessment.com launched an Auckland-Wellington roadshow to drive debate around the issue.

At the Auckland event last week, solicitor Michael Wigley said identity theft had become a big problem and predicted that if the European Union introduced data-breach disclosure legislation, New Zealand would follow.

"Any board not protecting its IP and brand is negligent," he said, adding that there is no end of justification in law for legal action against companies in the event of a breach.

"Boards know they should protect their IP and brands but don't do as much as they should," he said.

Wigley described most of the "accepted use" policies he had seen as "shit".

"They don't work and that's a strong indicator that all things are not well," he said.

Peter Benson, chief executive of Security.assessment.com, says most security people "get it", but most businesses don't.

He says information security is wrongly seen as an IT issue, rather than a risk and compliance issue that should be managed from the top.

"Law creates accountability," he says.

Benson says legislation lags technology by three to five years, because technology changes so quickly and is used in unexpected ways.

Wigley says to make a disclosure law part of the Privacy Act would be difficult as the latter is "principle-based" while a disclosure law would have to be quite specific. He says growing adoption of such laws across the US could be a product of the country having weak privacy legislation.

But, he says, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner here adopts a low-key stance compared with its counterpart in Australia, where privacy requirements are more stringently enforced.

Industry figure and ICT-NZ co-chairman Chip Dawson suggested there could be ways to encourage businesses to build security into their organisations.

Benson responded that security is essentially a "cost of doing

### LATEST NEWS

Telecom seeks relief on three-way split

Industry slams Telecom's request for relief

We're ready to go: Vector

Mobile Termination Rates will be regulated | 4

Blackbox cracks the code

At the 2degrees 3G launch | 1

### SUBSCRIBE



Computerworld is New Zealand's only specialised information systems fortnightly. Subscribe now for \$97.50 (24 issues) and save more than 37% off the cover price!



### SIGN UP



Get the latest news from Computerworld delivered via email. Sign up now

**THE SUSTAINABLE 60**  
**FREE WORKSHOPS: MARKETPLACE**  
 Auckland, 17 August 2010  
 Wellington, 19 August 2010  
[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS.](#)

**SOPHOS**

GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THE **SOPHOS THREATSAURUS**

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

READ COMMENTED EMAILED SHARED

- "UFB is a piece of ..."
- Internet account ban no worse than driving penalty
- Datacom chief dies suddenly
- iFiasco
- At the 2degrees 3G launch
- Chorus2 can deliver on urban and rural fibre

### POPULAR EVENTS

**SUSTAINABLE 60 AWARDS**  
 The Sustainable 60 Awards  
 Entries open now.  
[Click here for more details](#)

**Unlimited INVESTMENT CHALLENGE**  
 Unlimited Investment Challenge 2010  
 Entries open now.  
[Click here for more details](#)

**SUSTAINABLE 60 WORKSHOPS**  
 The Sustainable 60 Workshops  
 Dates confirmed  
[Click here for more details](#)

### SPONSORED LINKS

**COMPUTERWORLD** Local and International news  
 Enterprise ICT must know info  
[Subscribe today](#)

**PC WORLD** NZ's most trusted tech advice  
 Free NZ Delivery  
[Subscribe today](#)

business" and there is no business case associated with it. However, companies are breaching their ethical responsibilities by not taking security seriously. He added that the insurance industry is starting to provide some incentives through reduced premiums if corporate security standards are high.

Wigley said security is never perfect and some companies could be provided with incentives by means of escaping liability for breaches if their security met best-practice standards. He said the issue was complex but "do-able".

SHARE THIS STORY WITH:

 EMAIL  
 PRINT
 




[Telecom Broadband Offer](#)  
 Double what you love doing online Conditions apply.  
 Sign up now  
[www.telecom.co.nz/broadband-offer](http://www.telecom.co.nz/broadband-offer)

[Colin Craig for Mayor](#)  
 How do I know what most people want? Simple, I asked them.  
[www.votecolincraig.co.nz](http://www.votecolincraig.co.nz)

[Continuous Computing](#)  
 Business continuity equals more profitability call now  
 0800 427 337  
[www.HardDrive.co.nz](http://www.HardDrive.co.nz)

[Desktop Central](#)  
 Management & inventory tools for LAN & WAN computers  
[www.manageengine.co.nz](http://www.manageengine.co.nz)

 **Ads by Google**

**MOST POPULAR STORIES FROM FAIRFAX BUSINESS MEDIA GROUP WEBSITES**



- Leading through massive change
- Easing the information management headache
- Exit interview: Kevin Ackhurst of Microsoft NZ
- Yours leadership portfolio: The view from C-level
- How to sack your IT supplier



- Breathe new life into your laptop's battery
- Kiwis may be eligible for iPhone 4 refunds
- Press F1: Where's the power?
- Microsoft exec mocks iPhone 4, dubs it Apple's Vista
- Apple confirms iPhone 4 refund policy
- 2 degrees launches 3G services



- The habits of highly ineffective resellers
- iPhone 4 launch delayed
- SAP warms to open source
- Government hardware deals in the offing
- Citrix tops VMware in desktop virtualisation, again



- Change agents
- Creating value for NZ Inc through cleantech
- Customer complaints matter
- Sun sets on the Bill Day Show
- Productivity's last great hope at hope

© Fairfax Media Business Group  
Fairfax New Zealand Limited, 2010

FairfaxBG - Computerworld - PC World - Reseller News - CIO - Unlimited - actv8

Email Webmaster - Contact Fairfax Media Business Group - Subscribe Online - Advertise With Us - Privacy Policy