



Data Security – It's More Than Just Backing Up Files

How important is it to back up your data files? Imagine for a minute that you use email for a lot of your correspondence. It's great, right? Quick. Convenient. Leaves a trail that can be used for future reference. What if all of your email disappeared? Would it be problematic?

Now imagine that you have your own CPA practice. You have hundreds of client files, some are tax returns, some are accounting ledgers, some are confidential correspondence. What if all of these files disappeared? No problem, of course. You've made backup copies of the data on cartridges *and* you have those cartridges stored in a fireproof safe.

But the data didn't disappear because of a computer problem, or a fire. You were broken into last night by an experienced crew of "data miners" who were looking for personal information as part of an identity-theft ring. Social security numbers in the tax files? You betcha! Remember the bank routing number and account number you put on your Form 1040 last year to get your income tax refund? For data miners, this is like discovering gold.

When you came into work, however, no glass was broken. The door was still locked. In fact, no one physically entered your office last night. They got in through your connection to the Internet. And because you hadn't realized the importance of protecting your system with a hardware firewall, not only did they have free access to the data, you don't even know about it. Your clients will find out, though. In a bad way.

At Randy Hunt CPA PC, your tax return data is processed behind a state-of-the-art hardware firewall and stored at an IBM Level 3 Certified facility. We also have an intruder and fire alarm system monitored 24/7. We care about your valuable and confidential information. It's our business.