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A growing concern over data theft

By [Martin C. Daks](#)

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Data theft is a growing concern for companies, according to a Wednesday morning financial executives roundtable hosted by **Sobel & Co. LLC**, a Livingston CPA firm.

"Is your company limiting access to sensitive and critical data?" asked Sobel forensic accounting and litigation support director **George Wade**. "If it gets released, you could be subject to lawsuits and regulatory penalties," not to mention angering a lot of customers.

And threats don't just come from outside, Wade told about 20 business owners and executives. "If employees download sensitive data to their home computer, and later get fired or leave the company, they could bring customer, production and other sensitive information with them," he said. "Your company should have written policies about off-site access and data protection."

One small-business owner who employs teens and young adults worried about his workers' on-the-job use of Facebook and other social network sites.

"It could raise legal and other issues," Wade said. "But younger employees may walk if you don't let them use social networking sites."

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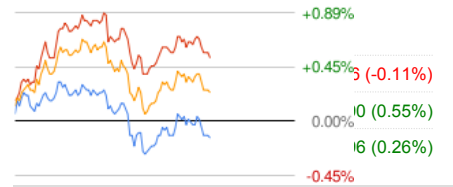
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