

# **CYBER SECURITY: What lawyers and law firms need to know about data security to avoid losing clients and getting sued**

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## Why are hackers targeting law firms?

- Data has migrated from paper to electronic form
- Firms working with significant sums of money have numerous locations and require online access around the clock
- Law firms have confidential information of clients
- Law firms' defenses against such cyber attacks have not kept pace

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## DATA BREACHES AT LAW FIRMS

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## Data Breaches at Law Firms

- 2008 - reports begin to circulate of law firms being hacked
- Litigation involving China - raising concerns that hackers were based in China
- November 2009 - FBI issued advisory that warned companies of “noticeable increases” in efforts to hack law firm computer systems

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## Data Breaches at Law Firms

- Mandiant Corporation reported that 80% of the nation’s 100 largest firms were victims of hacking
- 2015 ABA survey revealed 1 in 4 firms with at least 100 lawyers, had fallen victim to breach and nearly half had no response plan
- Cisco’s 2015 annual security report named law firms as the 7<sup>th</sup> highest target
- FBI’s cyber division issued an alert that hackers appeared to be specifically targeting international law firms

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