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Data Breach Risks for Law Firms

Presented to 31st Annual Technology Law Conference

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Statistics

Key Findings from 2016 Survey*:

- Only 23% of firms have cybersecurity insurance policies.
- Substantial majority of assessments show firms are not compliant with their data governance and cyber security policies.
- 100% of those firms are not compliant with their client's policy standards.
- Every law firm assessed was targeted by hackers for confidential client data in 2016-2017.
- Approximately 40% did not know they were breached.

*Conducted by LogicForce

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Statistics

- 34% of 100 law firms have had clients request a security audit
  - Large clients are now routinely sending security due diligence questionnaires (Large banks, Hospitals, etc)

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Types of Breaches

- Most common types of breaches
  - Loss or theft of laptops, thumb drives, smart phones or tablets
  - Phishing
    - December 2, 2016 – NYAG warned law firms not to click on a link claiming to reveal a complaint lodged by a client
  - Ransomeware – DLA Piper 2017
  - Employees/third parties using unauthorized hardware and software (Evernote/Google Drive)

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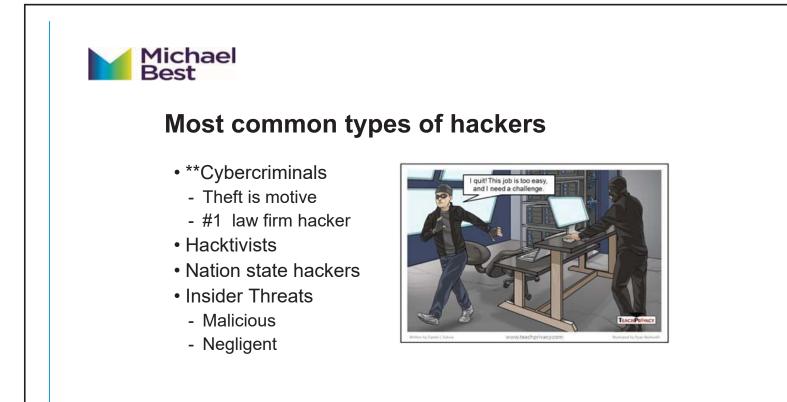## Law firms are great targets for cybercriminals

1. Environment

- Servers hold incredibly valuable information.
  - IP
  - Medical records
  - Bank information
  - Government secrets
- Vulnerability lies in compliance among all attorneys at a firm
  - Some attorneys and staff may not fully grasp the insecurity of behavior such as:
  - using public networks to access client documents
  - Unencrypted email transmission

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Most common types of hackers

- **Cybercriminals
  - Theft is motive
  - #1 law firm hacker
- Hacktivists
- Nation state hackers
- Insider Threats
  - Malicious
  - Negligent

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