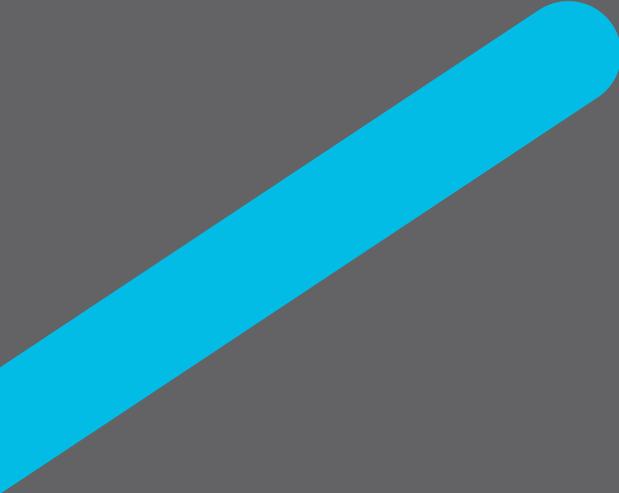


THE CYBER THREAT  
WITHIN THE UK'S WORKPLACE



The Lifeline IT  
Annual IT Trends Survey  
2015





## FOREWARD

We launched the Lifeline IT Annual Trends survey in 2010 to examine areas in the sector where we believed there was a need for further research and dialogue. Each year the surveys have become more established, provoking debate and highlighting issues in the ever changing landscape that is our virtual world.

Our 2015 survey is no exception and explores an area that affects us all: IT security in the workplace.

The findings are alarming to UK business, who are still not vigilant enough, despite having lived with technology for decades.

To put it into perspective, in 2013 the 'E-crime Home Affairs Report' sent shockwaves through the business community when it concluded that Britain is losing the fight against cyber-crime and considered it a bigger threat to the nation than nuclear war.

The cost to the UK of e-crime was estimated at a staggering £27 billion yet the report also found that 80% of

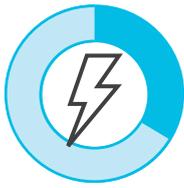
cyber-attacks could be stopped through what it called 'basic information risk management'.

That was nearly two years ago, yet our 2015 report, based on an independent survey of over a thousand workers, shows lessons have not been learned and ironically one of the biggest threats to UK industry is our own workforce, with over a third of employees breaking their companies' IT protocol.

Less than half of those questioned knew what their employer's IT policy was and a quarter said there wasn't one in place, so it is obviously a shared responsibility and one we must act on quickly.

**DANIEL MITCHELL**  
CO-FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF  
LIFELINE IT

## KEY FINDINGS



**36%** of employees have broken their employer's IT policy

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**68%** describe themselves as 'very' security conscious when it comes to using their own personal technology

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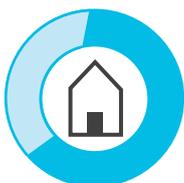
**26%** of employees said their employer did not have an IT policy

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**32%** were unsure whether an IT policy existed

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**64%** of employees work from home at some point

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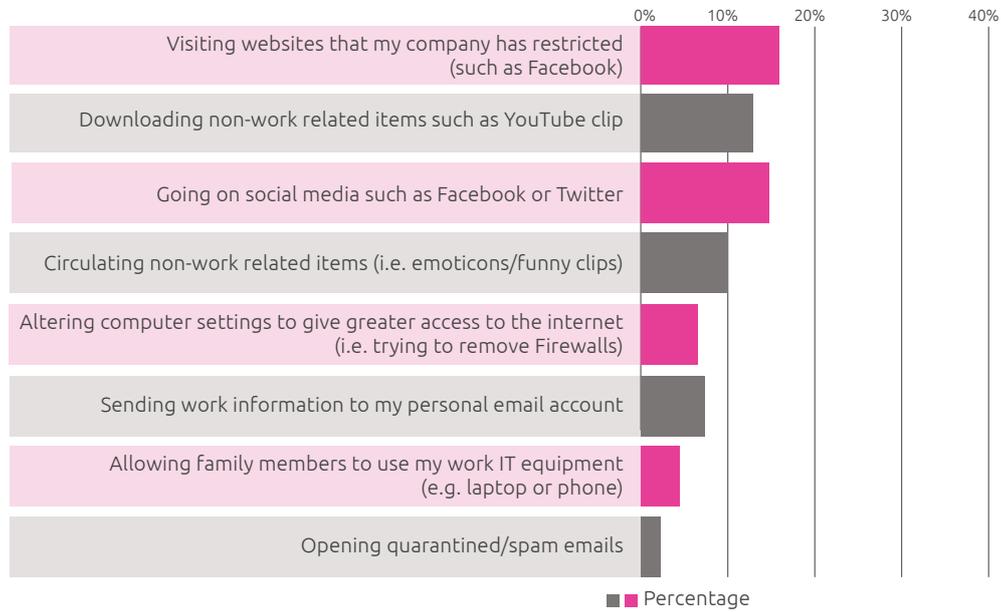


**24%** (less than a quarter) have a work laptop provided

## BREAKING THE CODE

A third of UK workers have knowingly broken their companies' IT policy which could leave a cyber-gateway open to fraud and other 'virtual' dangers.

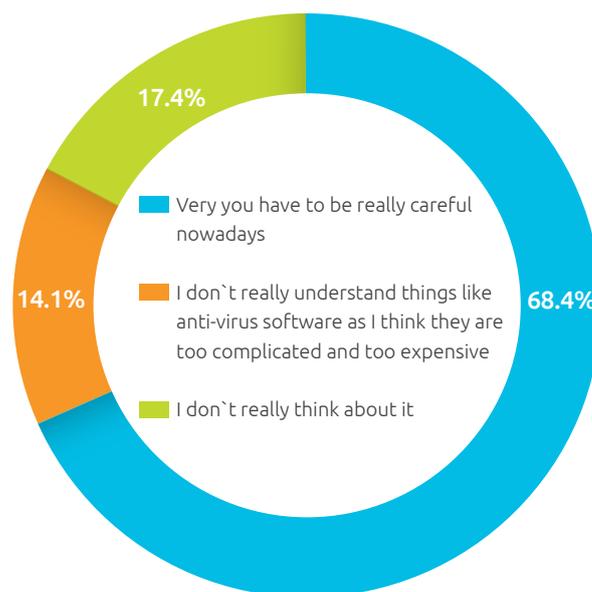
### Have you ever broken your employer's IT policy?



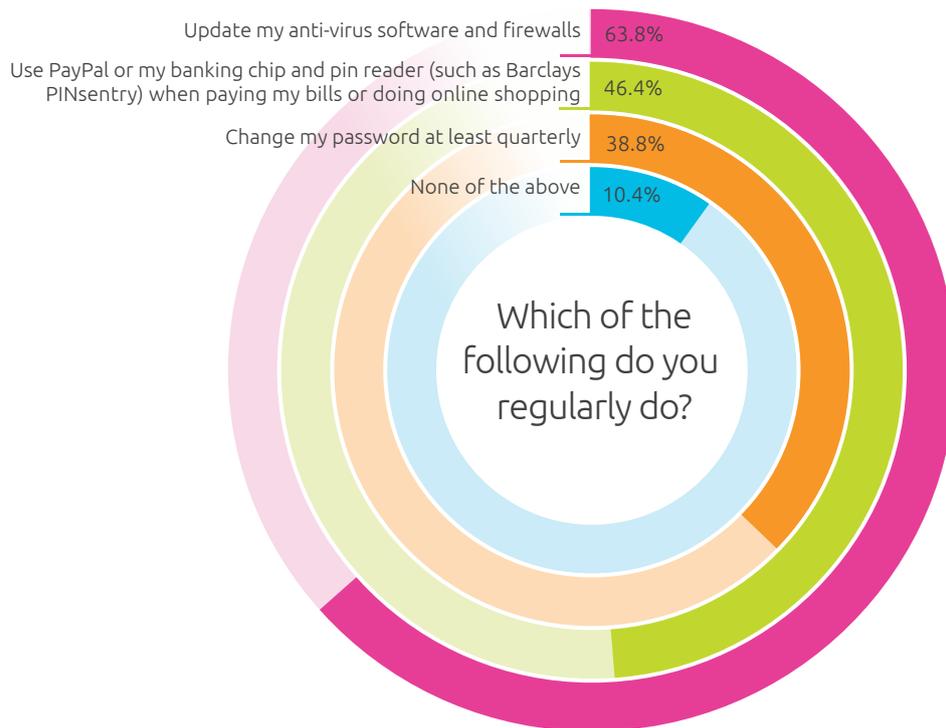
## HOMING IN ON SECURITY

Are people more security conscious when on the home-front than at work?

### How security conscious are you when it comes to your own technology equipment?



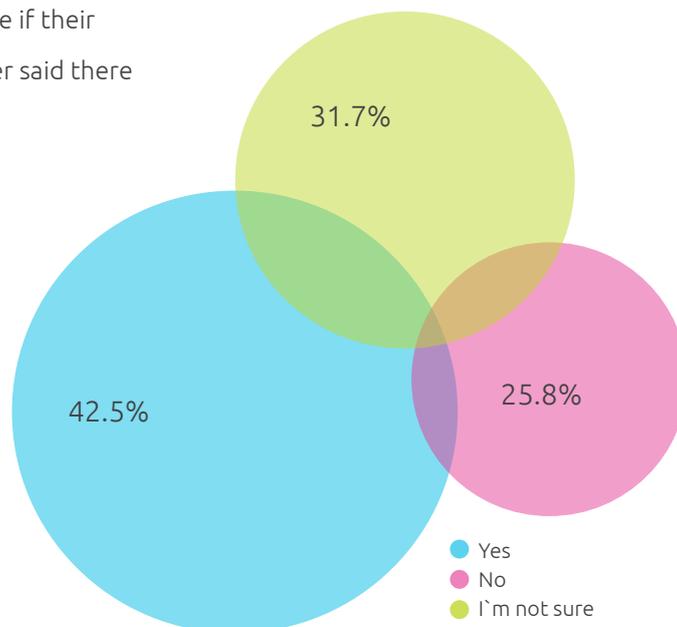
How careful are they?



### IGNORANCE IS BLISS

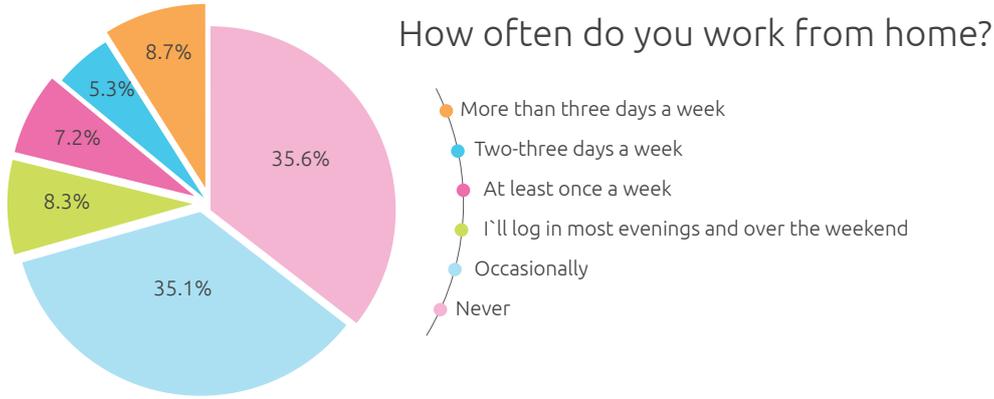
Only 42% of workers know what their company's IT policy is, while nearly a third admitted they weren't even sure if their employer had one, and a quarter said there wasn't one in place.

Does your employer have an IT policy?



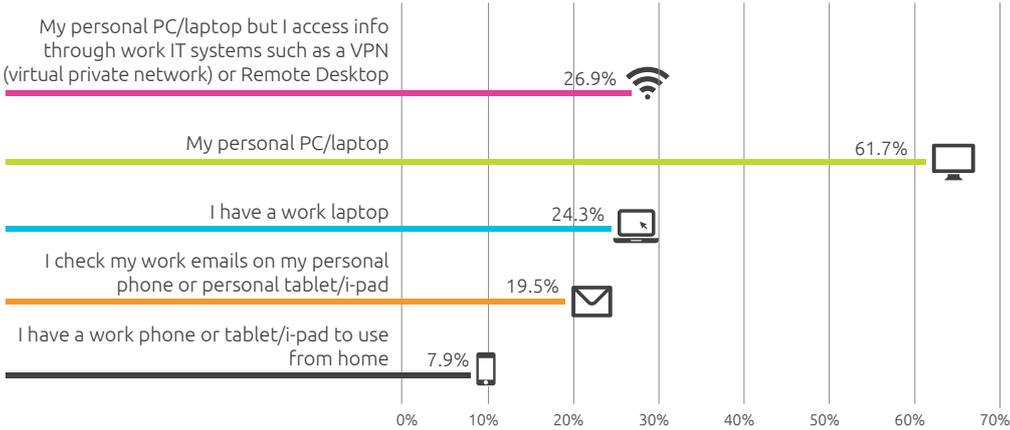
## OUT OF OFFICE

Nearly two thirds of us work from home at some point

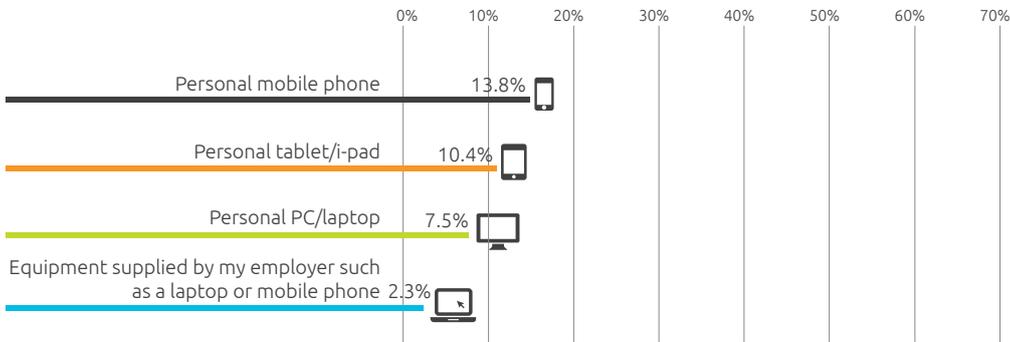


But is that secure? If your IT security isn't in place across all devices that employees use then it's an open invitation to hackers and fraudsters.

### What technology do you use when you work from home?



### Do you keep work information on any of the following devices?



## CONCLUSION

Every business should have an IT Security Policy that educates employees on how to stay safe. And every employee should know what that policy is. Yet sadly, we know that more than a third of businesses do not have one in place.

Without those two simple steps, UK companies are putting themselves at risk from cyber-crime.

## ABOUT US

Lifeline IT ([www.lifelineit.net](http://www.lifelineit.net)) develops and manages IT infrastructure for companies across sectors including retail, finance and property. With over 20 years' experience in the industry, Lifeline IT is a Microsoft Certified Partner and Microsoft Small Business Specialist and it has specialist interest in advising clients on IT and data security issues.

## ABOUT THE REPORT

All the data contained in this report was compiled independently by the tlf Panel who surveyed 1,000 people across the UK throughout March, 2015.

## CONTACT

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