

Keeping Pace With Cyber Risk

Your Clients' Trust, Your Firm's Future.

Christian Toon,
Legal Sector Cyber Security Advisor
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The Perfect Storm

The sensitive nature of client data we hold
The high-value financial transactions we process
The potential for accessing confidential information

Cyber requirements from clients
Partner expectations to protect profit
SRA , The Law Society, The Bar – as well as NCSC and ICO



Threat Landscape

Financial threats: The primary threat comes from cybercriminals seeking financial gain through theft of client funds or sensitive information.

Ransomware attacks: Increasingly sophisticated and automated ransomware attacks target vulnerabilities in law firms' systems.

Phishing and social engineering: Criminals use tactics like email phishing, voice phishing (vishing), and deepfake technology to impersonate clients, key roles, or witnesses.

Data breaches: Law firms are at risk of both external attacks and internal errors leading to unauthorized access to sensitive client information.



Threat Landscape

Supply chain vulnerabilities: Cybercriminals may target law firms through less secure third-party vendors or cloud services.

Insider threats: Disgruntled employees or those with malicious intent pose a risk to data security.

State-sponsored attacks: Some law firms have been targeted by foreign governments seeking to disrupt economic activities or gather intelligence.

AI-powered attacks: Cybercriminals are increasingly using artificial intelligence to enhance their attack capabilities.



Attack Vectors



Protection Strategies

Appropriate Technical and Organisational Measures (ATOMs):

- Technical Controls
- Administrative Controls
- Operational Controls
- Detective Controls
- Third Party Controls



Incident Response

1. Immediate Actions

1. Isolate affected systems
2. Notify key stakeholders
3. Engage incident response team
4. Contact cyber insurance provider

2. Critical Decisions

1. Client notification requirements
2. Law enforcement engagement
3. Public relations strategy
4. Business continuity activation



Recommendations

- Compliance is only good when your only threat is the Auditor.
- Threat based control response.
- Standards win you business, good security culture can help keep it.
- IR Plan, IR Plan, IR Plan
- Good Partners



Questions

