

WSJ PRO CYBERSECURITY

IN THIS EMAIL → | [Commentary & Analysis](#) | [More from Dow Jones](#) | [Editor's News Picks](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

[Cloud Storage Doesn't Guarantee Security](#)

[FCC Chairman Ajit Pai Will Seek to Suspend Privacy Rule](#)

[Editor's News Picks: Unqualified Job Candidates, Auto Data Theft Allegations, Banking Malware Soars, Mac Ransomware Targets Pirates](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



DOES YOUR
ENDPOINT SECURITY
HAVE A BRAIN?

AI

Cybersecurity that predicts, prevents and protects.

 CYLANCE™ [LEARN MORE](#)

Powered by  LiveIntent

AdChoices 

COMMENTARY & ANALYSIS

Cloud Storage Doesn't Guarantee Security

By Jeff Stone

Joshua Horowitz, a criminal defense attorney who has represented numerous

accused cybercriminals, said he doesn't trust any cloud storage services to protect his firm's information. Instead, Mr. Horowitz, whose New York City practice concentrates on matters requiring expertise in technology and computer software, built his own private server with the goal of storing, and protecting, his firm's information.

"I don't like the idea of storing sensitive data on servers that I don't own or have physical control over," he said.

Mr. Horowitz is something of an outlier, however. Ninety-three percent of organizations utilize some form of cloud services, according to a new study from Intel Security Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Intel Corp. But cybersecurity experts warn those companies may be making false assumptions about the security of the cloud.

"The biggest security risk of today is the panicked rush to the cloud," said Michael Overly, a partner and intellectual property lawyer at the firm Foley & Lardner, who recommended business leaders increase their overall security awareness and maintain employee training programs. "Simply buying more technology will not fix this."

Intel's researchers also found that 74% of enterprises store "some or all of their sensitive data" in a public cloud. Public cloud services are typically cheaper than so-called private clouds, though they store data belonging to multiple enterprise clients and come with less security. Meanwhile 52% of respondents told researchers they have tracked malicious software infections to cloud apps.

"Cloud providers typically provide security for the infrastructure, but require organizations to provide security for the data and systems they store in the cloud," said Eric Trexler, Intel Security's national security and civilian programs director.

Often, experts say, businesses fail to catalog where the cloud stops protecting their information. Not all services come with a firewall, for instance, or intrusion detection software to inform clients when an attacker may have compromised their system.

Outsiders can also use the same techniques to infiltrate the cloud as they would to break into the human resources department or other sensitive business area. Ninety-one percent of all cyberattacks begin with a phishing email, according to a December 2016 study, and bad guys who take over an employee account can likely use those credentials to access the cloud.

Those threats can be mitigated with regular security training and an organization-wide effort to protect sensitive information.

“As businesses and government agencies outsource their IT operations to cloud providers, they need to remain in control of the risks inherent with these new environments,” Mr. Trexler said. “Our best customers adopt a security posture that treats cloud assets as corporate IT assets, managing them from the same place and in the same manner as physical assets with an understanding of their unique qualities.”

(Jeff Stone writes exclusively for WSJ Pro Cybersecurity. He previously covered privacy, international hacking groups, bug bounties, and a range of related topics at media outlets including the Christian Science Monitor and the International Business Times. Write to Jeff at jeff.stone@wsj.com)

ADVERTISEMENT



DOES YOUR
ENDPOINT SECURITY
HAVE A BRAIN?

AI

Cybersecurity that predicts, prevents and protects.

 CYLANCE [LEARN MORE](#)

Powered by  LiveIntent

AdChoices 

MORE FROM DOW JONES

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai Will Seek to Suspend Privacy Rule

By John D. McKinnon