



Safeguarding firm's confidential data

BACKGROUND

A reputed Architecture firm that has been operating for more than 20 years suffers data leakage on account of one of its interns. Several interns approach architecture firms on a regular basis for serving an internship period ranging from 3 to 6 months, which is a mandatory part of the coursework. The intern who was hired in this particular firm belonged to a reputed institute. He was allotted a system to work on the tasks assigned by the Firm.

On completion of the internship, the intern requested the firm to give him the data that he had worked on so that he could present it in his institute. This being a common practice with the interns, the authorities gave him permission to copy the contents of the data file on which he had worked for his internship. He was given complete access to the system in order to copy the file.

During regular Firewall report check, the Firm found that the intern had stolen a great deal of confidential information about the Architecture firm's upcoming projects.

CHALLENGES

- To retrieve the stolen data.
- To trace the theft to the culprit.
- To identify the culprit.

STRATEGY

- A thorough investigation was carried out. It was discovered that the confidential data was uploaded in personal cloud account of the intern. It contained all details about the on-going and upcoming projects of the firm.
- Legal notices were sent to the intern and to the institute informing them about the discovered theft. The Intern was called in the office (The Architecture Firm Premises) and the confidential data files were deleted from cloud account of Intern in presence of Director of Architecture firm and the law firm. Technical experts from the law firm monitored the process.
- Vulnerability Assessment of the IT infrastructure of Architecture Firm was investigated. After identifying the IT infrastructure security loop holes, the information security team conducted IT Security hardening to make sure that such incidents should not occur again in future.