**Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management** 

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# Data Privacy and Security Challenges Presented by Employees Using Own Mobile Devices

#### Stephen Kai-yi Wong Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong



#### Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance – No Stranger to HR Managers

- comprehensive and stand-alone
  covering the public (government) and private sectors
- referenced to OECD Privacy Guidelines and EU Data Protection Directive of 1995
- enforced by an independent statutory regulatory body – the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
- named the second most trusted complaint handling agencies in Hong Kong





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#### **More Asian Jurisdictions Will Implement Similar Laws**



#### 1996



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#### The Six Data Protection Principles of the Ordinance





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#### The Six Data Protection Principles of the Ordinance

#### 《個人資料(私隱)條例》下的

est.1996





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保障、尊重個人資料 Protect, Respect Personal Data

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#### Hong Kong's Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance

#### Main points and mandates:

- the law is not prohibitive, rather it is facilitating
- principle-based that allows for flexibility and adaptability
- protection needs to be secured through:
  - Fair enforcement
  - compliance monitoring
  - promotion and awareness driving
- protection without compromising the interests of all stakeholders including:
  - > individuals
  - data users/controllers
  - > government



#### **Digital Footprint Protection is the Biggest Challenge**

#### 這個年代,上網就必然會留下數碼腳印!



#### Digital Footprints Are Stored in All Forms and in Many Types of Devices

- **Digital footprints may consist of:**
- browsing history and behaviours
- email messages and photos taken
- travel plans, calendar and contact details

Traditionally such data is stored in desktop computers but now it is mostly in mobile devices

Using personal mobile devices for work combines the risk of (1) data breach of organisation-collected personal data and (2) leakage of private information of individuals and their family members...



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# **Types of Mobile Devices**

#### **Portable storage devices:**

- mainly USB memory and similar storage devices
- risks = loss of device with unencrypted personal data stored

#### Smart devices:

- mainly smartphones and tablets
- risks = loss of device with persona data, eavesdropping of data transmitted, access of data by other apps and intrusion of personal data belonging to the device owner

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#### **Portable Storage Devices**

 loss of portable storage devices remains a prime concern

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Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	<b>2016</b> (up to August)
Number of cases reported	11	10	5	8	9
Individuals affected	6,552	4,492	478	211,704	28,906



#### **Portable Storage Devices**

**Privacy Commissioner** published Guidance on the Use of Portable Storage Devices to provide best practice for organisations using USBs, etc.



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#### Guidance Note

#### Guidance on the Use of Portable Storage Devices

#### Introduction

Portable storage devices ("PSDs") such as USB flash memories or drives, notebook computers or backup tapes provide a convenient means to store and transfer personal data. However, privacy could easily be compromised if the use of these devices is not supported by adequate data protection policy and practice.

This Guidance Note seeks to assist organisational data users in addressing the personal data protection aspects of using PSDs.

#### What are PSDs?

In general, any device that is portable with storage or memory and on which users can store data is a PSD\_PSDs are not limited to ensure that personal data held by it is protected against unauthorised or accidental access, processing, erasure, loss or use having regard to:-

- (a) the kind of data and the harm that could result if any of those things should occur;
- (b) the physical location where the data is stored;
- any security measures incorporated (c) (whether by automated means or otherwise) into any equipment in which the data is stored;
- any measures taken for ensuring the (d) integrity, prudence and competence of persons having access to the data; and
- (e) any measures taken for ensuring the

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### **Guidance on the Use of Portable Storage Devices**

#### avoidance

controls types of devices, circumstances of use and types/amount of personal data stored

#### prevention

encrypt data stored so data is not lost even when the device is lost

#### detection

- inventory control to ensure accountability by employees
- data breach notification and handling process in place to limit damage





## **Smart Device – Recent Developments**

- number of world-wide mobile users surpasses desktop users in 2014
- more Google searches were carried out from mobile than desktop in 2015



- there are over 14 millions active SIM cards in use in Hong Kong
- the Hong Kong Monetary Authority removed restriction from banks to use Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) in 2014 14



# **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**

- increasingly common for organisations to allow employees to use their own mobile devices (e.g. smartphones, tablets) to access and work with organisational information
- organisational information may contain personal data

use of own devices must therefore comply with the privacy law



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# **BYOD Information Leaflet**

- issued in August 2016
- highlights personal data privacy risks
- suggests best practices



#### **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**

#### **Executive Summary**

Bring your own device ("**BYOD**") is an organisational policy that allows employees to use their own mobile devices to access the organisation's information, including personal data collected by the organisation. For the purpose of this leaflet, personal data collected by an organisation is referred to as "organisation-collected personal data".



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#### **BYOD Risks – Overview**

most relevant risks are:

- lack of control that leads to:
  - over-retention of personal data (DPP2)
  - change of use and transfer (DPP3)
  - security breaches (DPP4)
  - non-fulfilment of data access requests (DD6)
- access to private/personal information stored by employees in the BYOD:
  - direct purpose and lawful collection (DPP1)





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## **Retention of Personal Data**

- points to note:
  - whether personal data should be retained in BYOD equipment
  - whether and how the organisation's retention policy can be applied equally and effectively to personal data stored in BYOD equipment (e.g. explicitly extend the policy to BYOD equipment?)





### **Use of Personal Data**

- point to note:
  - organisations should devise policies, establish controls and remind employees to ensure that data stored in BYOD equipment is not used for a new purpose without prescribed consent





# **Security of Personal Data**

- points to note:
  - BYOD equipment may store employees' personal/private data
  - consider employees' own privacy when applying the organisation's security policy to BYOD equipment (e.g. remotely accessing BYOD equipment to track its location may infringe employees' privacy)





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# **Security of Personal Data**

- points to note:
  - protect the personal data stored in BYOD instead of the device itself:
    - prevent data from being stored in the BYOD (e.g. use BYOD to remote access data stored centrally)
    - apply access control to the personal data stored (e.g. addition level of username/password is required to access the data so that family members cannot see the data by accident)
    - encrypt personal data stored (e.g. if data is accessed by other apps the data cannot be interpreted)



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### **Data Access Right**

- points to note:
  - organisations should establish procedures to comply with data access/correction requests particularly for data stored only in BYOD
  - Consider the need to backup data stored in BYOD but not centrally





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## **Best Practices of Implementing BYOD**

- establish policy
- conduct risk assessment
- apply technical solutions
- monitor and review





# **Establish BYOD Policy**

- respective roles, obligations and responsibilities of the organisation and employees
- criteria for deciding what information are accessible by BYOD, and what type of BYOD is allowed





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# **Establish BYOD Policy**

- technical solutions applied to protect the organisation's and employees' personal data
- mechanisms for the organisation to monitor compliance with BYOD policy and consequences of non-compliance





## **Conduct Risk Assessment**

- assess sensitivity of personal data involved and the harm of breaches
- develop proportionate access controls and security measures



- cover both the organisation's personal data and employees' private data
- may seek assistance from contractors for risk assessment and solution, but still accountable for privacy breaches caused by contractors



# **Apply Technical Solutions**

- typical mobile device controls include:
  - remotely wipe or lock BYOD equipment
  - detect whether BYOD equipment is "jailbroken" or infected with malware
  - record websites visited
  - Iock or delete data if incorrect passwords are entered repeatedly



 but all of these may be seen as a way of monitoring employees at and off work...



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# **Apply Technical Solutions**

- alternative technical solutions may include :
  - implement additional log-on for accessing organisational data so family members cannot do so accidentally



- enforce complex passwords for accessing organisational data
- independently encrypt data stored and transmitted by the app so the hackers need to compromise both the device and the app to gain access to the data
- auto-erase data when multiple unsuccessful log on or lost of device is detected



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# **Apply Technical Solutions**

- know how to encrypt data:
  - in a 2015 HKCER study of 133 mobile apps transmitting personal data, 33% of them did not apply encryption properly and data could be intercepted by fake Wi-Fi access point







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## **Monitoring and Review**

- organisations should regularly review and update BYOD policy following technological or business changes:
  - e.g. changes to nature and sensitivity of personal data stored in BYOD equipment may require updating BYOD policy



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# **Privacy by Design**

 employees may be given apps to run on BYOD for work purpose but they can also track people out of office hour



- Privacy by Design:
  - tracking ability should be off during out of office hour or outside work place
  - employee may switch tracking off



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# **Monitoring and Personal Data Privacy at Work**

- the need for monitoring must be evaluated:
  - Assess whether there is genuine need for monitoring



- Find out if there are any Alternatives
- Accountable with policy and compliance measures in place

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## **Monitoring and Personal Data Privacy at Work**

- the monitoring process must be managed well:
  - Clarity in the scope and purpose in the monitoring policy
  - clear Communication with employees on the policy
  - Controls in place for the holding, processing, use and disclosure of data





#### Data Privacy and Security Challenges presented by Employees using own Mobile Devices





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