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Not All Companies Following Proper Data Destruction Procedures

KUALA LUMPUR, July 13 (Bernama) -- Only an estimated 70 percent of local companies in the financial services industry, the market segment that dictates the strictest compliance to proper data management, follow proper data destruction procedures. Very few other local companies follow any data disposal processes at all.

Business development director of Micro Advisory (M) Sdn Bhd Jerry Loke said data destruction was important because the entire business' credibility was at stake if customer data is compromised in the event of improper data destruction.

"Companies tend to be more concerned about data recovery, making ample allocations for redundancy systems and backup generators.

"Businesses such as insurance, telecommunications and outsourcing which are entrusted with sensitive customer data need to give top priority to proper data destruction. In fact many outsourcing contracts have a specific section that details the procedure and methods of data disposal according to the client's requirements," he said in a statement Wednesday.

Loke also said that there was a widespread misconception that the media destruction was the same as data destruction.

However, destroying the physical media still presents the risk of data being stolen if the media is not "degaussed" beforehand, he said.

Degaussing erases the data from physical tapes, typically after being kept for seven years in accordance with the BASEL II banking regulations.

Loke said his company which provides IT solutions, also offers the Micro Advisory's Destroyer DDS-02, a solution which completely and securely destroys and cuts magnetic media into pieces before disposing it as unwanted rubbish at a legal dump site.

He said the degaussing is done before the actual destruction of the storage media.

Currently the most common ways to destroy data is either by manually pulling out the media's magnetic strips and cutting it into tiny pieces which is extremely time-consuming and costly or by burning it which may incur penalty if it involves illegal open burning in Malaysia, he said.

Micro Advisory (M) Sdn Bhd is a one stop IT distributor for various world class software and hardware products, solutions and services. Its core offerings include total storage solutions, total media management, document and content management, end-to-end IT security solutions and computer hardware and peripherals.

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