keep their head above water and fight the incoming tide of digital documentation.

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personal information, including bank accounts, social security numbers and work history. What could happen to a firm's liability insurance if that sensitive information was leaked and misused? The disclosure of a client's personal information could bring about a number of legal issues for a firm found in violation of the FTC information security laws and other privacy regulations.

Another factor affecting the industry is an increasingly mobile workforce; rather than being tied to a desk, the typical worker is now working remotely on multiple mobile devices. In 2013, more than 75 percent of the workforce will be mobile, according to Cisco. And work output is booming because of it; 3 out of 5 workers in the US say they no longer need to be in the office to be productive.

So now you have productive accountants who are working on the go – sharing, syncing and editing client documents on their mobile device of choice, but it's a nightmare for the IT and security departments. Fortunately, there are secure file-sharing solutions that meet the security and liability regulations that apply to accounting practitioners. Secure mobile productivity solutions for enterprises should provide the convenience of a public-cloud solution and the ease-of-use of a consumer-grade app, with additional layers of encryption and admin security controls that reduce the risk of data leakage.

There are a number of ways accounting firms can improve the mobile security of business content, without slowing down productivity. Here are five key best practices that accounting firms should follow to ensure confidential data shared via mobile devices is secure:

1. **Protect Confidential Files on All Devices**
   Deploy a file sharing solution that runs on all the mobile devices and OSs that employees are carrying. Even if a firm has deployed a Mobile Device Management (MDM) or Mobile Applications Management (MAM) solution for the basic

provisioning and network management of devices, it should also deploy a secure

demonstrate to clients or regulatory bodies that confidentiality has not been breached.

3. **Connect to SharePoint and Other ECM Systems**

Many firms have invested in ECM systems such as SharePoint or iManage. Accounting firms should choose a file sharing solution that integrates with these ECM systems, so that secure file-sharing becomes a natural part of doing work, and so that workers in remote locations always have access to the critical files they need.

1. **Use Private, Not Public, Clouds**
   Cloud architectures are scalable, mobile-friendly and cost-effective—ideal attributes for any firm. However, public clouds are unsafe for confidential data. By deploying a private cloud file sharing capability, IT has complete control over the location, access to, and availability of data.
2. **Block Risky Services**
   By providing a secure mobile file sharing service, firms can eliminate most of the temptation for employees to try a service like Dropbox or iCloud for business purposes. By also proactively blocking consumer-grade file sharing services, firms can be confident that users won't attempt to circumvent the IT department, jeopardizing the confidentiality of the firm's data. Another way to secure mobile data is through "open-in" features, which control what apps can access data. Finally, there is the "carrot and stick" approach, which provides employees with a generous amount of online storage space to store work, making the cost and complexity of a public service significantly less attractive.

By following these five best practices, accounting firms can ensure they're improving the mobile productivity of their workforce, without sacrificing the security of sensitive customer information. Mobile file sharing and synchronization is here to

stay, and firms that figure out how to do it securely will be positioned to win more

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