

Outlook Toward Security Has to Evolve: NASSCOM



NASSCOM Security Forum's - the security division of ITES and BPO companies association - conference held in Mumbai on 14 August 2007, focussed on "Privacy in India". It aimed at shedding some of the misguided notions about Intellectual Property Rights in India.

Data security in Indian context is different from the west. The discussion on Privacy Round Table laid self-regulated legalized policy and grassroots-level awareness as a solution to cyber crime.

Security experts - who attended the meet - started by pointing out glaring neglects on matters relating to data security. They blamed users general outlook to be the culprit. Some examples cited were how individuals declare their confidential information easily without thinking of repercussions. It's not just individuals who are casual toward security, even Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) attach little importance to deploying adequate security measures.

According to Vaibhav Parikh, head (technology law team) of Nishith Desai Associates, Indian laws need to be changed in accordance to sensibilities of the culture. Experts feel that there's a need to create awareness at the grassroots level.

The participants also expressed that in case of transfer of vital information legal guidelines are usually overlooked. Quoting an example, Sucheta Dalal, columnist of Indian Express Group, said, "When you file your e-tax, you simply give your password to the chartered accountant, without knowing that although the cash can't be taken from your account, yet the data fudging is a child's play."

In this regard, many hold that Indian laws on governing electronic commerce and data security aren't that complex. All that's needed is an effective enforcement of the same. However, most admitted that although laws may not be stringent, yet they're cumbersome to act upon.

Indian companies primarily conform to BS 7799 - a global standard that covers all domains of security. Today, companies are trying to implement enhanced privacy and security measures. Most of the outsourcing companies are already following a strict security check system. They've deployed access card reader systems for entry and exit and follow strict security checks for everyone who enters the company premises. Large BPO's are deploying state-of-the-art systems to monitor telephonic conversations, guard data, and watch workers' every move. However, industry experts sense that even domestic companies need to realize spheres of privacy and security in India.


In line with its initiatives to highlight that India's information security environment is among the best, NASSCOM used the occasion to invite contributions from industry experts to publish a book on data security and privacy in India.

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