

Cloud security in the legal sector

5 data points every CISO needs to know.



1 | Prevalence of cyber attacks

Human error is the primary cause of data loss in UK law firms, highlighting the need for **robust staff training, clear data handling procedures, and effective internal controls** to mitigate the risk of accidental data breaches and protect sensitive information.

(Source: [Legal Sector Cyber Threat Landscape for 2025](#))

70%

of data loss in UK firms is caused by human error or negligence.

The ICO can fine law firms up to 4% of annual global income or

£17.5M

whichever is higher, for mishandling client data.

2 | Cost of inaction

Failing to protect sensitive client information can result in **severe financial penalties** and **damage to a law firm's reputation**. Ensuring robust data security is critical to maintaining **client trust and compliance**.

(Source: [Enforcement | ICO](#))

3 | Tool sprawl complexity

Law firms face significant challenges in managing their security posture due to the complexity of multiple security tools, which can lead to **increased costs, reduced visibility, and potential security risks**, ultimately threatening the **confidentiality** and integrity of **sensitive client data**.

(Source: [Infosecurity Magazine](#))

Organisations now have an average of

76

security tools to manage, driven by the shift to cloud and remote working.

45%

of UK law firms were looking to outsource some or all IT functions to external providers in 2024; cybersecurity is among the most outsourced areas.

4 | Growing reliance on MSSPs

Law firms are increasingly outsourcing cybersecurity, to external IT partners with specialised expertise, acknowledging the limitations of in-house IT in managing complex hybrid cloud environments around the clock. This shift enables firms to benefit from **enhanced security capabilities** and better protect **sensitive client data**.

(Source: [OneAdvanced](#))

5 | AI & the future of cybersecurity

The lack of comprehensive AI governance in law firms increases the potential risk of non-compliance with data protection regulations. This oversight can lead to **legal liabilities** and **reputational damage**, highlighting the need for **robust AI management frameworks**.

(Source: [Bloomberg Law](#))

Only 41%

of law firms have established AI governance policies, which can expose them to compliance risks.

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