



Your business, your money, your time – your responsibility

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If you are a business owner or manager, are you at all concerned about the people you will hire in the future, what their priorities and skills with the new technology might be and how they will fit in with the requirements of the business?

If you are not concerned you should be but only as long as the business has not been able to establish a culture of compliance and set down the rules and regulations and standards by which everyone operates.

What happens when the cat is away in your business? Is policy right in front of everyone's nose and do your managers and team leaders have the clout to keep everyone on message and on target?

There are many workers in businesses large and small that sit alongside someone they know to be spending most of their day surfing the internet and playing games. In one government department, one of the people had created such a successful share trading business that he was forced to leave to handle the amount of work he had to do to maintain it. He saw nothing wrong with the time he spent trading because the computer was provided with full access to the internet and he put it down to maintaining good staff morale.

In another business an online gambler, after emptying personal and family bank accounts and maxing out their credit cards found a way to siphon off large amounts to maintain their habit. Because everything was disorganized on the computer network, it took some time for the auditors to pick up the anomalies and that was only after that person had done some major damage to the business.

In other businesses where some staff are doing everything but their work others are forced to watch on without being able to do anything about it. When they see that the practices go unnoticed they can join the ones who are making use of business time for personal activities.



In every case where this behavior seemed to be tolerated, the missing link was policy. And this is about official, management approved and written policy showing up exactly where it is needed and supporting those who have responsibility for managing and leading in the business.

If policy driving a culture of compliance is what is required it is important to recognize that policy is not going to get to the mark if it is located within a business information management structure that is chaotic. Chaos is the biggest impediment to best practice. Best practice is what is achieved through a culture of compliance. Compliance without policy is like a body without a brain. Nobody has to do the right thing without policy and most of the time it's not in their interests.

Protecting your business, your money and your time are issues that are rarely explored through policy and compliance. Some managers and owners find it hard to translate their needs into business policy and they leave it to others to create whatever is needed at the time and in the place where it is needed. This may or may not end up in policy that is in the best interests of the business and senior management may discover that it was missing or deficient when a crisis happens.

Some managers have created policy that says when resources such as the internet can be used and for what purposes. They have policy about review of downloaded content so that everyone knows what is expected of them. Others get hoodwinked by virus checkers and firewalls and really believe that they are protected and that their workers will then use their time for the business.

But the correct use of your business, your money and your time is only going to be honored and supported when business information is organized and where everything about information is sited in a culture of compliance. This is not about using the technology to bring organization to labels and descriptions. It is about creating an intelligent network and using it as the basis for policy and compliance for the whole of the business and managed from the top down.

The intelligent network is an organized computer network and is the technology or methodology that is free to choose and free to use. Find out everything you can about this and then focus on your policy for business success.