

## Cyber Liability Threats Facing Accountants

### Data Breach Causes <sup>1</sup>



42%

malicious / criminal attacks

30%

employee negligence

29%

system glitches

Hackers breached computers of a small accounting firm in Ridgefield, CT, stealing 900 client files containing tax records. <sup>2</sup>



~60%

of small businesses close within 6 months of a cyber crime. <sup>3</sup>



Cloud storage services are not immune to security risks and bear no responsibility for stolen data. <sup>4</sup>

20%

of all cyber attacks hit businesses with 250 or fewer employees. <sup>3</sup>



An employee of a CPA firm in Miami, FL, was pulled over for a traffic violation and found with 300 stolen client files, including tax returns, checks, and credit cards. <sup>2</sup>



Thieves stole a computer from a CPA firm in Albuquerque, NM, gaining access to more than 100K client records. <sup>2</sup>



Tax refund fraud is the #1 cyber risk facing CPAs. <sup>5</sup>

#1



An auditor in Birmingham, AL, mailed a flash drive containing 27K pension records. When the envelope arrived, it was found open and the flash drive stolen. <sup>2</sup>

Average cost per compromised record \* <sup>1</sup>

\$206

Aon Insurance Services has been the endorsed provider of the AICPA Professional Liability Insurance Program since 1967. The program offers CPA NetProtect® to cover firms of all sizes against data protection risks.

For more information, please contact Aon at 800.221.3023 or visit [www.cpai.com](http://www.cpai.com).

\* Cost specific to the US financial services industry

<sup>1</sup> Ponemon Institute, 2014 Cost of a Data Breach Study, May 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, Identity Theft & Data Breaches, [www.privacyrights.org](http://www.privacyrights.org), California, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Karol, Gabrielle, "Survey Finds CPAs in Dark on Cyber Threats," Fox Business News, August 1, 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Angeles, Sara, "8 Reasons to Fear Cloud Computing," Business News Daily, October 1, 2013.

<sup>5</sup> Singleton, Tommie. "The Top 5 Cybercrimes." AICPA. October 2013.

Courtesy [cpatrendlines.com](http://cpatrendlines.com)