

VLP Partner Michael Whitener Interviewed by Inside Counsel in the Article “Pokémon GO Exposes the Risks of BYOD Policies”

VLP Partner Michael Whitener was interviewed by *Inside Counsel* in the article “Pokémon GO Exposes the Risks of BYOD Policies.” The article reported that, in just over one month, Pokémon GO became a phenomenon. The popular smartphone game where players use their mobile device to capture, battle, and train virtual creatures, has raised potential data security concerns.

The article noted that the app poses particular issues for businesses with bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policies, where employees use their own devices for work purposes. BYOD is becoming the norm in the workplace, but employers rank security risks as the top concern in determining whether to adopt a BYOD policy.

“Because Pokemon GO has been so enormously popular – reportedly the most downloaded mobile game ever, with more than 25 million users playing each day – the security concerns of the game have received wide publicity,” Michael said.

He further explained, “The Pokemon GO security issues have been a wake-up call to businesses that permit use of personal mobile devices for business purposes, but have not put in place either a BYOD policy that employees must comply with or security measures for protecting corporate and personal information from unauthorized access that apps such as Pokemon GO may enable.”

Michael also noted, “The balancing act between employee flexibility and corporate security will continue, but the trends toward greater mobility and the blending of personal and professional lives are unstoppable.”

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