Going mobile:
seven steps to keep your data secure

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Cloud computing offers many compelling benefits for construction companies, such as faster deployment of software applications and simpler IT administration. But the real game-changer is the connection of the cloud with those handy mobile devices we all know and love.

Unfortunately, mobile devices also come with some hidden security risks if precautions aren't taken. The business use of company-and-employee-owned mobile devices requires both a new way of thinking and a new approach to security.

Take these key steps to start mitigating your risk and establish a mobile security plan:

1. Determine if you will issue company-owned devices, allow employee-owned (BYOD), or use a combination of both. Make sure you understand the costs and risks associated with each option. If employees are able to bring their own devices, consider using mobile device management tools to keep corporate information separate and secure.

2. Set some immediate ground rules. For starters, consider applying existing security policies to mobile devices (such as password length). Share your intention to publish a more formal policy at a later date.

3. Involve your employees. People are passionate about their devices, especially if they are their personal phones or tablets. If you don't fully understand how they use their devices and implement policies that are too restrictive, they will rebel.

4. Create a list of approved technologies. Consider creating a directory or list of acceptable devices and apps. This will ensure employees only use technology and apps from trusted providers.

> **93%** of construction professionals use some sort of mobile device on their construction sites.
> —McGraw Hill industry survey

5. Develop a security plan. Take into consideration important practices such as data wiping, password standards, and employee access levels.

6. Publish a policy. Establish appropriate security controls, clearly explain the expectations to employees, define company rights, outline expense reimbursement, and communicate what technical support the company will provide.

7. Enforce security policies. Like any guidelines, without enforcement, employees will view your mobile security policy as optional (especially in an environment where they bring their own devices). Consider mobile device management tools to simplify enforcement.

Mobile technologies provide convenience, improve collaboration, and keep projects moving. By assuring you have a security plan in place, you can enjoy those benefits while not compromising your company's proprietary data.

> **Plan your IT strategy and protect your company**
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> **49%** Construction firms with no mobile security policy in place*
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> **185%** Increase in the number of malicious software threats aimed at mobile device usage in less than a year**

Sources: *Sage 2014 Construction IT Survey
**Government Accountability Office Survey