

## LOOK WHO'S TALKING

### MARY CHANEY

## Mary Chaney helps local companies protect against all-too-common data breaches

Mary Chaney is leveraging her background as a Washington anti-trust lawyer and FBI agent to help local companies beef up their privacy and information security systems.

She's president and CEO of MBS Information Security Consulting, a Colerain Township-based firm she started in August 2008 to help small and mid-sized companies keep their electronic and paper records safe.

Data breaches cost businesses an average \$204 per compromised record, according to a 2009 survey by the Ponemon Institute, a Traverse City, Mich.-based privacy and data protection research firm. For businesses that maintain tens of thousands of records, costs can add up quickly.

Chaney says data breaches have worsened in the past year as the recession has caused companies to cut back on costs for information security systems. Her company, she says, is all about "Making Business Sense" out of information security.

Chaney practiced law in Washington, D.C., for four years and was an FBI agent in Los Angeles for six years specializing in cyber-crime cases before moving to Cincinnati. She spoke with reporter Jeff McKinney:

#### WHY IS DATA PROTECTION such a big issue for small businesses?

It costs those companies millions of dollars annually. Most of those companies don't implement basic information security controls, leaving them vulnerable to cyber crime.

#### WHAT TYPES OF DATA BREACHES are most often committed?

The top ones include online bank fraud, theft of intellectual property and comput-

er hackers compromising sensitive data. Small businesses and mid-sized companies are now being targeted because they often don't have computer systems that include the use of firewalls, anti-virus software and complex passwords.

#### WHAT CAN THESE businesses do to protect themselves?

One of the most important actions businesses need to take is to educate their employees about the perils of



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the Internet. That's because most viruses come from employees accessing unsecured sites or clicking on unknown links and e-mail.

#### WHAT OTHER ADVICE would you give businesses?

It's important to have written and enforced information security policies and procedures in place as part of a corporate strategy. Our firm offers some security tips at [www.mbsinfosec.com](http://www.mbsinfosec.com).

— **Jeff McKinney**