



Shaab Al-baghdadi, CIPP/E

SIRE Technology's new Data Protection Consultant will work with companies on their path to GDPR compliance.

*** 'One year to go' GDPR webinar being hosted on May 25, 2017**

*** Discount on initial review programme for those attending webinar**

SIRE Technology is working with Shaab Al-baghdadi, CIPP/E (Certified Information Privacy Professional/Europe) to offer a new service for both current and prospective clients. With the widely talked about GDPR legislation coming into force in a little over a year's time, companies across the region will need to ensure that the right systems and processes are in place. As a professional privacy consultant, Shaab understands not only the complexity of the legislation but how implementing this must not detract from the functionality of any organisation's core business.

One of the keys to successful implementation of GDPR is going to be the understanding and management of the process between different departments within any one organisation. "For example, the IT department's main concern may be the security of the company's data whilst for the marketing team the main priority may be how to legally access and use the information stored in a sales database. At the same time, clients will also want to ensure that their suppliers are compliant to the new standard;" explained Russell Cook, Managing Director, SIRE Technology.

He continued; "By now the vast majority of companies will have heard about the GDPR legislation and will hopefully have started to take appropriate measures. However, there will be some that have either decided to ignore it (it won't go away!) or are uncertain as to how to start to bring the processes and systems required into

their own business. We believe that our combination of knowledge in cloud solutions, data protection and cyber security, coupled with Shaab's expertise in the implementation and management of strategic protocols and governance, will provide valuable support for those companies who don't have the resources and expertise to manage this in house. "

Sourcing external expertise and support is already widely accepted by many organisations in areas such as HR, PR, marketing and health & safety, and it is this approach that SIRE hopes will give companies the confidence to use their tiered services. It is also an approach that differentiates them in the market place.

"Companies should not feel threatened by this new legislation but view it as an opportunity to review and refine their business processes, many of which will have just evolved out of necessity without any real thought or planning," commented Shaab. Following initial discussions SIRE will then be able to offer clients a choice of support packages that will meet their own specific needs and fill any gaps they may have.

Don't forget the paper based systems

One other point that Shaab is keen to highlight, and which many may have forgotten in all the hype about GDPR, is that this new ruling applies to all data including any older paper based records eg an individual's own address and contact system. If these are misplaced or misused the repercussions could be just as serious. He is also keen to remind people that, regardless of Brexit, this is pan-European legislation and as such a UK company that sells into Europe could find itself having to deal with, for example, the German Data Protection Office rather than the UK organisation, if the complainant is a German citizen.

How to find out more

As a starting point, and to highlight the one year count down to the legislation, SIRE is inviting people to join them on a webinar on Thursday May 25th, during which Shaab will give an overview of the key points of the legislation, provide suggestions on first steps and introduce the different tiers of support that SIRE can provide. There will also be a live Q & A session at the end and any organisations participating in the webinar will be able to claim a discount on the cost of the Fair Process Notice

Review. This is the first stage of managing your GDPR and will highlight any possible deficiencies and opportunities for improvement and streamlining.

Anyone wanting to register for the webinar should visit

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/717993569337595649> where there is more information about how to take part.

Background

SIRE has been at the forefront of leading-edge technology since 1993, during which time it has helped its clients to maintain a competitive advantage through the intelligent application of the latest IT systems and processes. The company's goal is to provide tailored, managed IT services that use cloud based solutions, the latest in data protection and cyber security to make their clients' business more secure and which deliver improved performance.

For more information on SIRE, its products and services visit www.sire.co.uk or take a look at the You Tube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRBiiVFxt__peekrjGN6hw

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* High res image available on request

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