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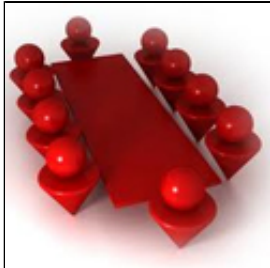
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PwC Reveals: Third of German Firms Hit by Fraud

Spy Snaps: **More in the News**



PwC Reveals: Third of German Firms Hit by Fraud

As a result of high-level fraud and trade secret theft, Germany's top companies have suffered an average loss of €8.4 million over the past two years, reveals a new annual study conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). However, the figure only represents the reported crimes, whilst the majority of the corporate espionage cases go unreported due to the reputational damages this crime causes to companies.

The research, which gathered data from 830 German companies with at least 500 employees, shows that the cost of financial crime has substantially increased in comparison to previous years. While the most common crimes are simple fraud and theft, over 12% of the cases are related to industrial espionage and data theft. Furthermore, a striking 61% of the questioned firms say that they had fallen victim to embezzlement, fraud, corruption, industrial espionage or similar crimes in the past 24 months.

The recent study highlights that the higher up the hierarchy the culprit was, the more rare the prosecutions were. This means that employees involved in espionage or trade secret theft is more likely to get away with the crime when they are at an executive or director's level rather than in a low-ranking position. At the same time, the statistics show that high-ranking employees commit 50% of the financial crimes.

However, the companies are becoming more and more aware of the huge damage that this type of crime can cause to their reputation and stock chart. The PwC survey showed that 50% of the German companies see financial crime and corporate espionage inflicting 'noticeable harm' on their business relationships, whereas, in 2007, only 27% of the firms acknowledged this reality.

As a result, firms are apparently more eager to invest in counter espionage programmes. More than half the respondents have decided that paying for a so-called "Compliance Programme" to prevent the 'invisible crime' from happening is a worthy investment.

DID YOU KNOW?

When using Skype on an iPhone or iPod touch, your device's address book can be stolen simply by someone sending you a chat message.

Source: [Spynbustlers](#)



Spy Snaps: **More in the News**



A former Bank of Ireland executive, Irfan Qadir, has accused the company of putting himself and his ex-boss under surveillance. He claims their homes were broken into and information gatherers were searching his bins. The allegation was made in the trial over the bank's failings during the recent financial crisis.

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The chairman of Pirelli, Marco Tronchetti Provera, is under investigation as part of a long-running probe into alleged spying by Telecom Italia employees on several Italian public figures. Pirelli held an indirect controlling stake in Telecom Italia until 2007.

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A hidden tracking device was found under the Range Rover that belongs to British model and celebrity Katie Price (alias Jordan) last week, when the vehicle was taken to a London garage for a routine check.

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