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Companies lose employees everyday. But, something organizations often ignore or fail to recognize is the risk of sensitive data leaking out through the loose ends created by these employees knowingly or unknowingly releasing company information. *The Risk of Uncertainty,* by Wendy Goucher, describes the risks of underestimating the issues that arise from these situations and how to minimize the impact from them.

According to Wendy Goucher, individuals take or leak company data due to the following four reasons:

1. To act as a safeguard in case their employment is threatened.
2. Due to moral reasons(example, WikiLeaks)
3. Espionage (for rival companies)
4. Misunderstandings on who the data belongs to.

Wendy Goucher adds that although it can be difficult to control where this information goes; there are many ways to reduce the leakage of sensitive information. There are six main steps to ensure company information remains secure:

1. Awareness: Ensuring that everyone, from board level and below, understands this threat.
2. Strong, dynamic access control: controlling who has access to sensitive information.
3. Non-write drives: Removing physical ways of extracting data.
4. Document control: Using one or more methods to track sensitive data.
5. Special precautions for temporary staff.
6. Final departure: Reducing access to sensitive data when an employee is about to leave.

Goucher ends the article emphasizing the need to recognize these risks and take appropriate measures to promote a secure environment.

Wendy Goucher. (2011). The risk of uncertainty. Volume 2011, Issue 2.

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