Phiston TECHNOLOGIES® INC.
Innovation, Ingenuity, Integrity

The Growing Impact of E-waste and the Benefits of Secure Data Destruction

CLOUD COMPUTING

In the digital age, electronic devices, data, and e-waste have become a part of everyday life. With the emergence of cloud storage, everything is stored online and virtually accessible from anywhere. Cloud storage solutions provide users with a secure, centralized place to store their data, making it more convenient and secure than ever before. It is a great way to keep all your important files safe and accessible wherever you are.

Cloud storage enables users to access, store and share their data seamlessly across different devices and platforms. Access files from any device with an internet connection, eliminating the need for physical storage media such as USB drives.

Cloud storage is cost-effective and provides a secure solution for businesses of any size. Unfortunately, with the increase in the use of electronics and data, there is an increasing problem with e-waste. As a result, many devices are becoming obsolete and ending up in landfills, making e-waste a major environmental issue.

AN OVERVIEW OF E-WASTE

E-waste, or electronic waste, generates when electronics and electrical goods become obsolete, broken, or no longer wanted. This includes computers, televisions, cell phones, and other digital devices. E-waste is one of the fastest-growing sources of pollution, and it continues to have a detrimental impact on our environment. Not only does e-waste account for large amounts of physical waste, but it also contributes to data breaches. These can be disastrous for businesses and consumers alike.

E-waste can be classified into two categories; large and hazardous waste and small consumer items. Large and hazardous waste includes products such as computers and cell phones, which contain more complex electronic parts. Small consumer items include batteries, cords, wires, and other small components. Both types of e-waste create a range of environmental and health risks.

LARGE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

Large and hazardous waste poses the most danger as it contains toxic materials like lead, mercury, and other dangerous substances. These materials can leach into the soil and water systems, causing long-term environmental damage. In addition, these materials can cause health problems for those who handle them regularly.

SMALL CONSUMER ITEMS

Small consumer items also pose risks but are usually not as severe as those posed by large and hazardous waste. These items are often composed of plastics, metals, and other materials that can be recycled. However, improper disposal of these items can lead to hazardous materials leaching into the environment.

E-waste is becoming an increasingly significant issue. As technology advances, the amount of e-waste generated will only grow. It is important to take steps to reduce e-waste and properly dispose of electronics when they become obsolete. This helps protect the environment and ensure that hazardous materials do not release into the environment.

HOW E-WASTE HAS GROWN IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The world produces an alarming amount of electronic waste yearly, which continues to increase as technology advances. With the emergence of the digital age, the amount of e-waste has multiplied. Thus, leading to growing concerns about its impact on our environment and global climate.

In 2021, over 63 million tons of e-waste were generated worldwide. When not properly disposed of, these electronics release toxins into the environment and increase our carbon emissions. Thus, the emergence of the data age has directly impacted climate change. E-waste is a global issue that needs addressing, as improper disposal of electronics can lead to devastating consequences on both human health and our planet.

An essential factor to consider when disposing of e-waste is the potential for data breaches. For example, when computers and other electronic devices containing personal data are disposed of improperly, the risk of a data breach increases significantly. Companies must take the proper steps to ensure their e-waste is disposed of properly to protect sensitive data.

ISSUES WITH DATA BREACHES AND HANDLING E-WASTE PROPERLY

When a device is discarded, the data stored on it could be accessed by someone who is not authorized. This could lead to identity theft or other security issues. To prevent data breaches, individuals and businesses need to ensure that all data is securely wiped from devices before being discarded.

Handling e-waste properly is also important to ensure that hazardous materials are not released into the environment. Many countries have regulations and laws in place to ensure the proper handling of e-waste. These include bans on sending e-waste to landfills, regulations for recycling electronic components, and banning exports of hazardous waste.

Additionally, businesses should take steps to reuse, recycle, and properly dispose of e-waste by these regulations. While it is true there are several cost-saving measures when it comes to e-waste disposal; companies should first attempt to safely recycle and reuse components rather than discard them. This can help reduce costs and the number of hazardous materials released into the environment.

In addition, businesses should take advantage of e-waste collection services and offer incentives to customers who bring in their old electronics. Finally, companies should actively educate their employees on how to properly dispose of e-waste. By taking these steps, companies can reduce costs associated with e-waste disposal and create a more sustainable world.

CAN THIRD-PARTY SERVICES HELP WITH E-WASTE DISPOSAL?

Using in-house destruction methods and services is often the most cost-effective means of ensuring secure data destruction. Techniques such as degaussing, shredding, physical destruction, and wiping are all available for personal or business use. However, there is always a risk of data leaking through third-party services with little to no experience in secure data destruction.

For example, Morgan Stanley, the global financial services firm, suffered a data breach after a third-party contractor failed to securely destroy customer data. Some hard drives were not completely wiped or degaussed, and the customer data stored on them remained accessible. Those hard drives were also listed on an auction website. This breach demonstrates the importance of understanding what processes and procedures third-party data destruction services have in place.

It is imperative to research and consider the risks of using a third-party service, especially when it comes to confidential or sensitive information. The contractor used by Morgan Stanley had no prior experience in IT asset disposition. It is essential to know the security measures and protocols that are followed to ensure complete data erasure and destruction.

RISKS OF THIRD-PARTY SERVICES

Companies should carefully consider the risks and benefits associated with using third-party vendors for data destruction. This is especially true if the data is sensitive or confidential. It is also important to ensure that any company or contractor you are using is compliant with state and federal laws and regulations related to data destruction. Companies should make sure they are using a third-party certified and qualified to properly handle the destruction of their data. It's also vital to ensure the third-party service can provide an audit trail. Thus, there is a record of when and how data was destroyed.

Finally, organizations should consider the impact that proper data destruction can have on their business continuity plan and their reputation with customers and the public. With the right precautions in place, organizations can mitigate the chances of a devastating data breach.

HOW PHISTON TECHNOLOGIES TACKLES E-WASTE DISPOSAL

Data security is a top priority for businesses of all sizes, but it can be incredibly challenging when dealing with end-of-life electronics. At Phiston Technologies, we know how important it is to ensure that all your sensitive data is securely destroyed and disposed of. That's why we offer a wide range of services designed to help businesses properly dispose of their e-waste.

Our machines use a multi-step process to destroy the data. Our newest machines – the A2 and A10 – feature metal separators to help ensure that even the most difficult materials are securely destroyed and recycled. As a further assurance, our machines meet or exceed all government and industry regulations. Our expert team can help you customize the process to meet your specific requirements. With Phiston Technologies by your side, your data is destroyed and ready for recycling in an environmentally responsible manner.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The growth of e-waste has put a strain on our planet's resources. It is critical that we properly handle and recycle electronic waste, as well as securely destroy data to protect individuals and companies from data breaches. Phiston Technologies offers secure data destruction services through specialized machines such as the A2 and A10 metal separators. Through these services, we can help protect our planet and your data from harm. Contact us today to learn more about secure data destruction and IDAD recycling.

THE PHISTON ADVANTAGE

As of 2022, Phiston has 13 products in the market.

Phiston dominates the information security market for media destroyers that:

- Are commercial grade, powerful, and rugged, yet portable, safe, and simple to operate
- Are designed to meet industry standards for media destruction and or media sanitization
- Meet stringent regulatory standards for worker health and safety, workplace air and noise quality, and waste containment and disposal
- Will not contaminate or adversely impact the pristine operating environment of computer data centers and other clean rooms.

Phiston Technologies meets the high-security media destruction challenges of some of the largest companies in the world, including many in "Big Tech." Phiston has experience in many diverse industries, including homeland security, military, aerospace, law enforcement, finance, education, transportation, social media, aviation, legal, medical, and retail.

Our devices are deployed across all 50 states and 51 different countries, including both government and private sectors.