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Legal Overview

Law firms can't afford to be down. Having access to information and various databases is a requirement. The days of folders stacked on desktops—both physical desktops and PCs — is over. Today's legal professionals use laptops, smartphones and tablets to run their business from applications that live on the cloud.

It's not just law firms who have made the move; judicial courthouses and other enforcement government agencies have followed suit.

Attorneys today use legal management software platforms to document and track case proceedings. Like other mobile knowledge workers, they carry a laptop, mobile phone, or a tablet with Wi-Fi network connectivity to answer emails, manage their calendar, and collaborate.

Most law firms and legal agency offices have multiple office locations in a variety of geographic locations. Regardless of where employees are connecting from or what they are connecting with, users expect ubiquitous, hassle-free network connectivity anywhere.

This increasing dependence on network connectivity means that downtime is costlier than ever.

Law firms typically operate on billable hours, so even an hour of downtime can be costly for legal professionals. However, a Managed Service Provider (MSP) that offers data Backup and Disaster Recovery (BDR) and business continuity solutions can help a law firm minimize downtime.

Downtime results in loss of hourly and daily income, missed court appearances, irreversible loss of vital client and firm data, and, most importantly, the loss of reputation and clients.

Mike Robbins of *Attorney at Law Magazine* states that just one hour of network downtime per month costs your firm \$60,000 in lost billable opportunities. This figure is the most common for law firms that have 25 timekeepers and an average billing rate of \$200 per hour – results will differ if you have more or less. However, without a business continuity plan in place to ensure that the firm can continue running – even during the event – even the most lucrative law firm would have trouble bouncing back from these kinds of losses.

The [American Bar Association](#) points to ten trends that firms should be taking into consideration today: increased technology budgets and more flexible planning, technology training, legal research, security, cloud computing, firm hardware, social media, mobile technology and virtual communication for firm growth. Let Ecessa work with you and your customers to target these essential opportunities.