

# 1 A scary story for grown ups

There was a time when we were read stories before going to sleep...some of these stories involved beautiful princesses and knights in shining armour. Others were scary with Big Bad Wolves, Witches, curses, poisons and other nasty elements.

Yet, many of the stories had a purpose beyond getting a child to sleep, and one old favourite, the story of the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf, is relevant to this book.



**Figure 4:** The Big Bad Wolf  
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No doubt you recall that the Big Bad Wolf (BBW) wanted to eat the little pigs (LP). Two of them wanted to play and dance and built their houses quickly – one with straw and the other with branches. Of course the BBW blew them away with little effort.

It was only the third and most serious LP who decided to build a house carefully, using bricks and mortar so that it could not be easily blown away. And so, transferring this story to cyberspace, where there are no BBWs, there are many other characters with malicious intent (Chapter 2).

What can (and does) happen to the unprepared in cyberspace? Here is a short list:

- Devices (computers, tablets, smartphones) stop working properly
- Infection of other devices (and other peoples') by contagion
- Loss of the devices through carelessness, forgetfulness or theft
- Irreversible loss of the data in the devices
- Exposure of personal and corporate sensitive data to various risks
- Exposure to unsolicited e-mail (spam), phishing, spear fishing and scams
- Exposure to unsuitable material (e.g. xenophobic, misogynist, political, pornographic, etc.)
- Risk of your children being exposed to unsuitable material
- Identity theft resulting in financial consequences
- Disclosures you may regret later
- And more.



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