



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2007

Contact: OMB Communications, 202-395-7254

**OMB OFFERS BEST PRACTICES TO HELP AGENCIES MORE
EFFECTIVELY SECURE INFORMATION**

Washington—In an effort to make the federal government’s identity theft awareness, prevention, detection, and prosecution efforts more effective and efficient, the Office of Management and Budget, (OMB), along with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), today issued a list of best practices to help agencies improve the security and privacy of their information systems.

To ensure government agencies receive specific guidance on concrete steps they can take to improve their information security measures, the President’s Identity Theft Task Force recommended the Office of Management Budget (OMB) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) outline best practices and standards that would enable agencies to improve their security and privacy programs; and develop a list of the most common 10 or 20 “mistakes” to avoid in protecting information held by the government.

“In order to maintain the trust of the American public, we must operate effectively by securing government information and safeguarding personally identifiable information in our possession,” said Karen Evans Administrator, Office of E-Government and Information Technology. “All of the best practices and important resources are inter-related and they can help agencies address the risks associated with information security and privacy programs.”

Each risk listed in the report, in categories ranging from security and privacy training for personnel to procurement issues, is associated with selected best practices and important resources to help agencies mitigate and avoid these risks. The paper incorporates comments received during a public forum hosted on May 11, 2007 by DHS and OMB, as well as comments received through interagency review. Agencies may refer to this paper when considering steps necessary for administering agency information security and privacy programs as required by law, policy, and guidance.

The OMB/DHS paper can be found at: <http://csrc.nist.gov/pcig/document/Common-Risks-Impeding-Adequate-Protection-Govt-Info.pdf>

The Identify Theft Task Force Strategic Plan can be found at:
<http://www.idtheft.gov/reports/StrategicPlan.pdf>.

###