

# Highlights of Recent IG Reports on Internet Data Collection

(This table includes only those reports received since April 1, 2001.)

AGENCY	SUMMARY
Agriculture, Department of	Ag does not have a web site inventory; persistent cookies were used in two instances; and 17 of 69 Web sites (25%) did not have privacy policies.
Commerce, Department of	Twelve sites found using unauthorized persistent cookies (8 third-party); web bugs exchanging info with non-government computers found on 23 pages; and 78% of privacy statements (18 of 23 reviewed) did not comply with Department policy.
Environmental Protection Agency	Eighty-six percent of EPA sites didn't have a privacy notification link (18 of 21 documented); five sites found using unapproved persistent cookies; and several sites found to be non-compliant with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Three unapproved persistent cookies found. No privacy policies on 3 major entry points to the FEMA web site.
Health and Human Services, Department of	Six sites using unapproved persistent cookies; 21 sites designed for children didn't have a privacy statement or a link to a privacy statement as required by COPPA.
Interior, Department of	Eighteen unapproved persistent cookies found; 12 pages contained Web bugs; 3 of 5 third-party contractors were collecting personally-identifiable info without disclosure of uses.
National Endowment for the Humanities	Two unapproved persistent cookies found—one identifies repeat visitors and the other controls a pop-up window. According to the IG, the former has already been removed and the latter would be removed April 30th.
Office of Personnel Management	One unapproved persistent cookie found and 77% of major entry points (61 of 79) lacked a posted privacy policy.
State, Department of, and the Broadcasting Board of Governors	Nine sites were using unapproved persistent cookies; the web masters of two of those sites were aware of the persistent cookies but did not realize that they needed notice or agency head approval. One hundred sixteen of the 206 sites reviewed had no privacy statements and an additional 34 linked to an outdated statement; therefore, nearly 75% of State's Web sites were not in compliance with OMB's policy on privacy statements.
Veterans Affairs, Department of	The IG identified 29 unapproved persistent cookies, and 22 sites that did not provide privacy policy notices posted at the home page.