The NIH Eye on Privacy

The Office of the Senior Official for Privacy serves as the chief NIH privacy governance entity whose mission is to ensure the highest level of scientific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility in the area of privacy management.
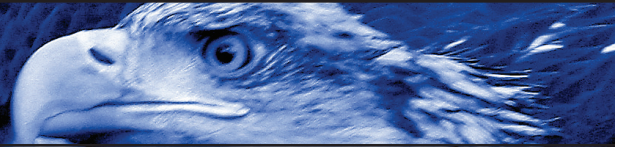
Calendar of Events

Privacy Management Committee (PMC)

December 17, 1:00–2:00 p.m.
6011 Executive Boulevard
Suite 601, Room 647B

American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP) Events

Opening the Door on Privacy Issues

December 2, Washington, D.C.
Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Spotlight on National Security Issues

December 2, Washington, D.C.
Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Annual Symposium & Training Conference

December 3–4, Washington, D.C.
Walter E. Washington Convention Center

2nd Annual National Training Conference

March 8–11, 2009, Las Vegas, NV
Harrah's Hotel

To register for ASAP events, please visit:
http://www.accesspro.org

International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) Events

IAPP Privacy Dinner

December 9, Washington, D.C.
The Willard Hotel

The Practical Privacy Series: Government

December 10, Washington, D.C.
George Washington University

CIPP Foundation and CIPP/G Certification Testing

December 11, Washington, D.C.
Ernst & Young, 1101 New York Ave N.W.
Rooms 3.1069 G and H

To register for IAPP events, please visit:
http://www.privacyassociation.org

Letter from the OSOP

NIH Supports Government-wide Social Security Number Reduction Initiative
Halloween has come and gone, leaving a plethora of uneaten candy in our homes and signaling the start of this year's holiday season. But before everyone starts giving thanks for family, friends and a buffet table full of delicious food, it's time to check in on NIH's Social Security Number (SSN) Reduction efforts.

As part of a government-wide initiative to eliminate the unnecessary use of SSNs, the Department of Health & Human Services issued a request last month to inventory all record systems which store SSNs. In compiling the inventory, the Operating Divisions were asked to indicate the function of the SSN, the legal authority and purpose for collecting it, potential alternatives to the use of the SSN, possible obstacles to implementing those alternatives, and system weaknesses that could result in the inappropriate disclosure of SSNs, as well as safeguards in place to protect the records.

The week of November 3rd, NIH submitted its inventory to HHS which included all of the IT systems, paper forms and OMB information collections in which SSNs are currently stored. We would like to express our appreciation to the Executive Officers, Privacy, Records & Forms Management Officers, Project Clearance Liaisons, ISSOs, AOs and other staff who worked diligently to comply with our request to turn the data call around in a very short period of time. Thank you!

Our next step will involve us reaching out to you to identify instances in which NIH can work to eliminate or reduce the use of SSNs easily, with some difficulty and over a longer period of time. With your help, we can ensure NIH becomes even more effective in keeping private SSNs and other personally identifiable information!

Karen Plá, NIH Senior Official for Privacy

NIH Eye on Privacy, Straight to Your Inbox

If you're one of those people who prefer to receive a newspaper delivered to your doorstep rather than standing in line at a newsstand or wrestling with a vending box, you're sure to enjoy the new electronic subscription to the NIH Eye on Privacy newsletter. With this new, opt-in list serv, the latest monthly newsletter will be delivered to your e-mail inbox—directly from the OMA Office of the Senior Official for Privacy.

✓ To subscribe, send an e-mail message to listserv@list.nih.gov.

✓ No subject line is needed.

✓ The text in the body of the email message should read (without quotation marks) "Subscribe NIHEyeonPrivacyNews [Your Name]".

✓ Make sure no text or signature line follows the message. Immediately, you will receive a response asking you to confirm your request. It's that easy!

Privacy Leader Named to Obama Transition Team

IAPP Daily Dashboard, November 6, 2008

A leading privacy attorney and founder of the Online Privacy Alliance has been named to President-elect Barack Obama's transition team, reports CNN. Christine Varney will serve as Personnel Counsel during the three-month transition. For the last decade, Varney has headed the Internet practice group at the international law firm of Hogan & Hartson. Before that, she served as a Federal Trade Commissioner, where she led efforts to examine privacy issues in the Information Age. Her work at the FTC resulted in Congressional and agency hearings, proposed industry standards and increased government enforcement of laws protecting privacy.

Read the full CNN story: http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/11/05/obama-transition-team-announced/

Federal Task Force Cites Privacy Challenges Facing Government Agencies

By Wyatt Kash, *Government Computer News,* October 8, 2008

A new report by a federal task force on identity management catalogs the challenges government agencies face in collecting and using personally identifiable information (PII) and outlines an initial set of recommendations for building a more organized framework for identity management.

Among the task force's conclusions:

- There are more than 3,000 systems within the U.S. government that utilize PII, and the vast majority of these were designed and managed independently from one another;

- Duplicative identity data is frequently stored in multiple locations within the same agency and across agencies, resulting in problems with accuracy and complications when an individual seeks redress;
- A lack of commonly used standards makes cross-function collaboration difficult, making it harder to respond to time-sensitive missions;
- Privacy protection efforts vary in complexity across agencies; and
- The absence of a single government-wide forum responsible for coordinating and homogenizing identity management efforts continues to hamper progress.

IDENTITY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE REPORT 2008
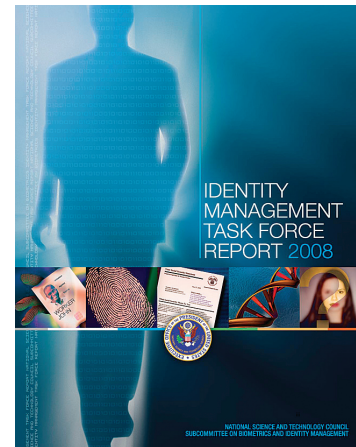
Read the full story: http://www.gcn.com/cgi-bin/udt/im.display.printable?client.id=gcn_daily&story.id=47319

State, VA Disclose Two New Data Breaches

By Jaikumar Vijayan, *Computerworld,* November 3, 2008

Two federal agencies that have already drawn attention this year for data security breaches are back in the spotlight again—for the same reason.

One of them is the U.S. Department of State, which [recently] disclosed that it had notified close to 400 individuals that the data they had submitted with their passport applications had been stolen in a database intrusion.

And [on November 1], the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) said that one of its medical centers in Oregon had accidentally posted personal data on about 1,600 patients on its public Web site.

Read the full story: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=IT+in+Government&articleId=9118959

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National Institutes of Health

For more information about the OSOP, the Privacy Act, PIAs and privacy at NIH, please visit: http://oma.od.nih.gov/ms/privacy
To learn more about IT security at NIH, please visit: http://ocio.nih.gov