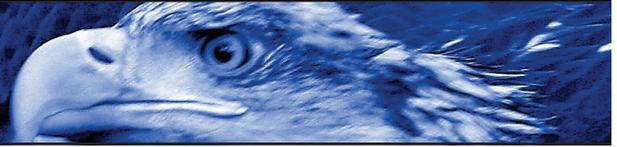# The NIH Eye on Privacy

Office of the Senior Official for Privacy   Volume 2, Issue 1   January 2009

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

Celebrate Data Privacy Day 2009

January 28, 2009

Join privacy professionals across the world and celebrate Data Privacy Day 2009! Data Privacy Day is designed to raise awareness of the importance of privacy practices and rights.

For more information, please visit:
http://www.intel.com/policy/dataprivacy.htm

Privacy Coordinator Group Meeting

January 28, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
6130 Executive Boulevard (EPN)
Conference Room G

International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)

CIPP Foundation and CIPP/G Certification Testing
January 28, Washington, D.C.
Ernst & Young, 1101 New York Ave N.W.,
Rooms 3.1069 G and H

Privacy Management Committee Meeting

February 18, 1:00–2:00 p.m.
6011 Executive Boulevard
Suite 601, Room 647B

American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP)

2nd Annual National Training Conference
March 8–11, Las Vegas, NV
Harrah's Hotel

International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)

IAPP Privacy Summit 2009
March 11–13, Washington, D.C.

HHS Privacy Conference

April 28, Rockville, MD
Parklawn Building, Conference Room D/E

This is your opportunity to learn more about Privacy at HHS! Stay tuned for more details including an agenda and how to register.

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

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

Make Privacy Your New Year's Resolution!

The start of a new year heralds the opportunity to do things better than the year before. Whether you resolve to cease a bad habit or plan for new experiences, 2009 holds the potential to surpass 2008. As you consider your New Year's resolutions, the OSOP encourages you to adopt a few of our favorite privacy-related resolutions!

2009 PRIVACY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- ☑ Shred unnecessary documents which contain sensitive information such as SSNs, patient medical records, financial or personnel information, biometrics, etc.
- ☑ Frequently change your computer password
- ☑ Collect and keep only the information you need to do your job
- ☑ Encrypt e-mail that contains PII
- ☑ Subscribe to the *NIH Eye on Privacy* to stay current on privacy initiatives at NIH
- ☑ Get to know your IC's Privacy Coordinator
- ☑ If you have a teen, they most likely use a social networking site such as Facebook. Take advantage of the following tips provided by the Federal Trade Commission and consider speaking to your child about protecting their privacy online: http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/social-networking-sites.aspx

We look forward to continuing to serve the NIH community in 2009!
Karen Plá, NIH Senior Official for Privacy

Obama: All Medical Records Computerized by 2014

By Sindya Bhanoo, *The Industry Standard,*
January 12, 2009

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to computerize all of America's medical records within five years.

"This will cut waste, eliminate red tape and reduce the need to repeat expensive medical tests," he said. "But it just won't save billions of dollars and thousands of jobs, it will save lives by reducing the deadly but preventable medical errors that pervade our health care system."

But the road to digitized medical records will be a tough and expensive one, CNN Money reported. Today, only about 8% of the country's 5,000 hospitals and 17% of its 800,000 physicians use electronic medical records.

There is also the issue of patient privacy. Numerous hospitals have faced security issues since moving to electronic medical records.

Read the full story:

http://www.thestandard.com/news/2009/01/12/obama-says-all-medical-records-computerized-2014

2008 Breach Numbers Nearly Double

By Brian Krebs, *The Washington Post,*
January 6, 2009

Businesses, governments and educational institutions reported nearly 50 percent more data breaches last year than in 2007, exposing the personal records of at least 35.7 million Americans, according to a nonprofit group that works to prevent identity fraud.

Identity Theft Resource Center of San Diego [found] that some 656 breaches were reported in 2008, up from 446 in the previous year. Nearly 37 percent of the breaches occurred at businesses, while schools accounted for roughly 20 percent of the reported incidents.

Read the full story:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/05/AR2009010503046.html?wpisrc=newsletter

Senators Gregg and Feinstein Introduce Bipartisan Measure to Combat Identity Theft and Protect Privacy

By Brian Lawson, *PolitickerNH.com,*
January 7, 2009

[On January 7], U.S. Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced bipartisan legislation to curb the growing epidemic of identity theft by making it harder for criminals to steal another person's SSN. The measure, entitled Protecting the Privacy of SSNs Act, prohibits the sale or display of SSNs to the general public without an individual's consent. It also requires government agencies to take steps to protect SSNs from being displayed or accessed. In the past, this bill has been approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, although the Senate has yet to pass it.

If signed into law, the legislation would:

- Prohibit the sale, purchase or display of a SSN by any person without the number holder's consent
- Restrict the display of SSNs on public records published on the Internet or in electronic form
- In limited circumstances (such as for credit checks or law enforcement purposes), the bill would permit legitimate business and government uses of SSNs

Read the full story: http://www.politickernh.com/brianlawson/4994/senators-gregg-and-feinstein-introduce-bipartisan-measure-combat-identity-theft-and

GAO Report Update

Health Information Technology—Federal Agencies' Experiences Demonstrate Challenges to Successful Implementation http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09312t.pdf

Battle Over Privacy, Real ID Awaits Obama

By Jaikumar Vijayan, *Computerworld,*
December 27, 2008

As President-elect Barack Obama prepares to take office, it's unclear how his administration will proceed on the technology-heavy Real ID program. But what is all too clear is that the three-year-old effort to impose identification-card standards on state governments remains mired in controversy.

Obama has made virtually no public comments about the initiative, which calls for driver's licenses and other state-issued IDs to include digital photos and be readable by scanning devices. In addition, the one time that the Senate considered

a Real ID funding issue during Obama's tenure there, he didn't cast a vote.

Meanwhile, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, Obama's choice to be secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, signed a bill in June barring her state from participating in the program. And during a Senate committee hearing last year, she said that complying with the rules would cost state governments a total of $11 billion. The DHS is responsible for implementing the Real ID rules.

Read the full story: http://www.pcworld.com/article/156068/battle_over_privacy_real_id_awaits_obama.html