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Press Release

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U.S. SECRET SERVICE COLLABORATES WITH VERIZON BUSINESS ON 2010 DATA BREACH INVESTIGATIONS REPORT

Expanded Data Pool Results in New Cybercrime Insights

(Washington, D.C.) The 2010 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report, now available to the public, provides an expanded view of data breaches over the last six years. In the first-of-its-kind collaboration, the Secret Service contributed data to Verizon Business's vast research effort, and the resulting report and in-depth analysis incorporates data from 900-plus breaches involving more than 900 million compromised records.

"The Secret Service believes that building trusted partnerships between all levels of law enforcement, the private sector and academia is the right model for facing the challenges of securing cyberspace," said U.S. Secret Service Assistant Director of Investigations Michael Merritt. "It is through such vast and established partnerships that the Secret Service is able to help expand the collective understanding of breaches and continue to augment our advanced detection and prevention efforts."

As the report outlines, today's global economy has streamlined commerce for both corporations and consumers. Because financial institutions and systems are readily accessible worldwide, today's financial and cybercriminals have adapted similarly, and seek to exploit this international dependence on information technology. Cybercriminals consequently have become experts at stealing stored data, data in transit and encrypted data. They operate based on trust, long standing criminal relationships, high levels of operational security and reliability.

To combat these emerging threats, the Secret Service has adopted a multi-faceted approach to aggressively combating cyber and computer related crimes. By establishing a network of 29 Electronic Crimes Task Forces (ECTF), including the first international ECTF located in Rome, Italy, 38 Financial Crimes Task Forces (FCTF) and a Cyber Investigations Branch, the Secret Service is able to better detect, prevent and aggressively investigate electronic crimes. Plans are currently underway for a second overseas ECTF to be announced this year. In fiscal year 2009, agents assigned to Secret Service offices across the United States arrested more than 5,800 suspects for financial crimes violations.

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www.secretservice.gov

The partnership between the Secret Service and Verizon Business for the Data Breach Investigations Report illustrates the lasting benefits of collaboration between the private sector and federal law enforcement in combating crime.

To view the report in its entirety, visit www.secretservice.gov (under “Downloads” in the “Press Room” section) or www.verizonbusiness.com/Thinkforward/.

About the United States Secret Service

Well known for protecting the nation’s leaders, the U.S. Secret Service also is responsible for protecting America’s financial infrastructure. The Secret Service has taken a lead role in mitigating the threat of financial crimes since the agency’s inception in 1865. As technology has evolved, the scope of the U.S. Secret Service’s mission has expanded from its original counterfeit currency investigations to also include emerging financial crimes. As a component agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Secret Service has established successful partnerships in both the law enforcement and business communities – across the country and around the world – in order to effectively combat financial crimes.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: For questions concerning this release, please contact the United States Secret Service Office of Government and Public Affairs at 202-406-5708.