



Is data your insecurity? A paper by DISUK Ltd

We all have sensitive data, we trust others with it and they trust us - disclosure of this information can cause irreparable harm to individuals and businesses.

Therefore, as a business we take great care to ensure that the information is protected – firewalls, intrusion protection and detection, virus scanning all of these functions reassure us that we are looking after our data asset in the best way possible to protect against malicious misuse. This is like locking the doors and windows of your house and then setting the alarm – we are reassured, we are safe, we can sleep at night.

Once we have our data, best practice dictates that we should make copies of it to a removable media (most popularly tape) to store offsite in the event of a disaster.

Tape backup software is given access to all data on the system. This access strips away all the perimeter security we have installed: firewalls, intrusion detection etc., and the data is written in plain text onto the tape.

Unfortunately, these tapes are completely unprotected so once the tape leaves our premises we will never know if it has been read or copied by an unauthorised third party as tape does not have access control or audit trails.

A backup tape can be copied and replaced in a matter of minutes and remember, these tapes contain all of your business!

Tapes are often taken to the vault by the lowest cost method, i.e. a courier company. In April 2005 Iron Mountain, probably the largest company in the world providing secure offsite media management services was quoted as saying:

“We only manage the media entrusted to us – it is every organisations responsibility to encrypt data they need to keep confidential.”

Once the tape has been obtained the criminal can spend as much time as he likes analysing its contents and you will never know this is happening until you start to lose customers to the competition or your customers suffer personal loss due to identity theft.

Tape losses since February 2005

Date	Name	Type Of Breach	Records Lost
Feb. 25 , 2005	Bank of America	Lost backup tape	1,200,000
April 20, 2005	Ameritrade	Lost backup tape	200,000
May 2, 2005	Time Warner	Lost backup tape	600,000
June 6, 2005	CitiFinancial	Lost backup tape	3,900,000
July 6, 2005	City National Bank	Lost backup tape	Unknown
Sept 19, 2005	Children’s Health Council	Stolen backup tape	6,000
Oct 21, 2005	Wilcoxs Memorial Hospital	Lost backup tape	130,000
Dec. 16, 2005	ABN AMRO Mortgage Group	Lost backup tape	2,000,000
Dec 28, 2005	Marriott International	Lost backup tape	206,000
Dec 31, 2005	Providence Home Services	Stolen backup tape	365,000
Jan 11, 2006	People’s Bank	Lost backup tape	90,000
Jan. 25, 2006	Providence Home Services (OR)	Stolen backup tape	365,000
Feb 13, 2006	Denver International Airport	Stolen backup tape	Unknown
April 27, 2006	Long Island Rail Road	Lost backup tape	17,000
May 5, 2006	Department of Veteran Affairs (WA)	List data tape	16,500
June 16, 2006	NY State Controller’s Office (Albany, NY)	Lost data cartridge	1,300
June 29, 2006	Minnesota Dept. of Revenue (St. Paul, MN)	Lost backup tape	50,400
July 5, 2006	Bisys Group, Inc. (NJ)	Stolen backup tape	61,000
July 18,2006	Nelnet Inc	Lost backup tape	188,000
July 25,2006	Cablevision Systems Corp	Lost backup tape	13,700
Aug 18, 2006	California Dept. of Mental Health	Lost backup tape	9,468
Sept 7, 2006	Circuit City and Chase Card	Discarded backup tapes	2,600,00
Total			12,019,368

Compiled by: DISUK Source: Privacy Rights Clearinghouse www.privacyrights.org

We often hear the phrase “It’s OK ,it doesn’t matter it’s only historic old data”, but when was the last time your date of birth changed, mothers maiden name, social security number changed? Data has a value to us as a business in a legitimate way and also to those who would misuse it.

So what's the solution to this obvious gap in any companies' security strategy?

The Paranoia2 removable media encryption appliance

Paranoia is a family of high-speed hardware encryption appliances designed to encrypt data written to removable storage media.

Each product within the Paranoia family is built to integrate seamlessly into an existing storage environment. Located between the server and tape storage device, Paranoia2 is transparent to the operating system and the built-in pre-compression ensures encryption without performance degradation.

As hard as nails encryption, simple to install and use.

zero system overhead	no change to existing operational procedures
transparent to the operating system	host independent
unique dual interlaced encryption mode	backup software independent
unique hardware key for each customer	tape drive agnostic

Paranoia2 allows you to:

- Secure data whilst in transit
- Guarantee privacy when using a shared tape silo
- Secure transit of confidential data by commercial couriers
- Ensure data integrity of legal information
- Ensure patient record confidentiality

This problem will not go away – it will only get bigger – we are doubling the amount of digital information generated and save each year, and nearly all data generated today spends the bulk of its time on removable media – take action now to protect your data or you could be the one on TV trying to explain why your customers data has been exposed.

So, can you sleep at night, is your data safe, are your customers safe?

What is identity theft?

In the UK it is estimated that more than 100,000 people are affected by identity theft each year. The Home Office Identity Fraud Steering Committee has completed a one-off exercise to update the Cabinet Office estimate for the purpose of establishing trends in the cost of identity fraud over the past three years.

The latest estimate is that identity fraud costs the UK economy £1.7 billion. As with the previous study, it represents a best estimate of the scale of the problem.

<http://www.identity-theft.org.uk>

According to CIFAS (the UK's fraud prevention service), 120,000 impersonations were detected in 2004, costing the UK around £1.34 billion a year.

http://www.cifas.org.uk/press_20050428.asp

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