

Case Study:

Lab – Case Study on U.S. Veterans Affairs and Loss of Privacy Information

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs had a privacy data breach in 2006 that an agency employee said affected the records of 26.5 million veterans and their spouses. An employee at the agency reported the breach and said that a laptop he used at his home in Montgomery County, Maryland, had been stolen. This employee had been taking home a laptop that contained private information of the approximately 26.5 million veterans. This privacy information included the veterans' names, Social Security numbers, the dates of birth, and disability ratings.

On May 17, 2006, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was informed of the breach, and it began an investigation along with the Veterans Affairs (VA) Inspector General's Office. During the investigation, it was discovered that more than the originally reported veterans and their spouses were affected by the theft. In fact, approximately 1.1 million active-duty military personnel were affected, as well as 430,000 members of the National Guard and 645,000 members of the Reserves. In addition, the investigation revealed other information, including:

- On May 3, 2006, the theft occurred. The employee whose laptop was stolen reported the theft to his supervisors at the agency and to the Maryland police.
- On May 16, 2006, Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson was told of the breach that resulted in unencrypted data being stolen. Supervisors at the agency knew of the theft on May 3 when it happened, but they failed to tell Mr. Nicholson until the May 16 date.
- On May 22, 2006, the agency finally informed those who were affected by the breach. The agency announced that the laptop had been stolen. The agency reported that the information stolen included veterans' and their spouses' names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, and disability ratings. The agency said that the information did not include financial data or electronic health records.
- The analyst who took the laptop home had been given permission to use the laptop at home. (The agency did not reveal this until after it had already said that the employee

was fired for taking the laptop home.) The employee said that he had taken the laptop home regularly for three years.

Congress held a hearing on May 25, 2006. During this hearing, Secretary Nicholson admitted that the stolen information included disability ratings for 2.6 million people.

On June 3, the agency admitted that approximately 50,000 active-duty personnel were also affected by the stolen data. By June 6, 2006, the agency had admitted that approximately 1.1 million active-duty military personnel were affected, as well as 430,000 members of the National Guard and 645,000 members of the Reserves.

On June 29, 2006, an unidentified person turned the laptop over to the agency, which believes it will cost \$100 million to \$500 million to cover the data theft losses and prevent additional losses.

As cybersecurity manager you are responsible for staying up-to-date with laws that may affect ABC organization legally. Your CISO has asked you to create a presentation for the next board meeting where you will present information about this act and how it could affect your organization which is a software company which specializes in multimedia applications which can be downloaded or accessed for a subscription via the web. Create a PowerPoint® narration (voice) report of at least 10 slides based on your findings about this law (not including the cover page and reference page). If you do not own a copy of Microsoft PowerPoint use a comparable slide software or Google Slides (free and accessible from Google.com). If your tool does not offer the ability to put audio on the slides utilize another tool to record the audio portion, i.e., VLC Media or another tool that will allow you to record .mp3 file format that transitions with the slides.

In the presentation, address the following:

1. What laws have been violated?
2. What do you think contributed to the problems that could lead to a violation of these laws?
3. What are the implications to the individual and organization of these violations?
 - History of the law
 - ABC's responsibility under this law

- What is ABC's liability for failing to follow these laws?
4. What are some security controls and mitigation strategies for handling future violations? (Slide should contain three to five.)
 5. How does privacy law differ from information systems security?

Make sure to provide a reference slide that provides APA citations of any sources used in the PowerPoint presentation. This slide does not require narration.

Oral Parameters/Expectations:

1. At least 10 slides in length, with each slide having a narration in Standard English explaining the key ideas in each slide.
2. The oral presentation should have a highly developed and sustained viewpoint and purpose.
3. The oral communication should be highly ordered, logical and unified.
4. The oral delivery technique, including word choice and oral expressiveness, displays exceptional content, organization, and style, while leading the audience to a dynamic and supported conclusion.
5. Free of grammatical errors.
6. **No evidence of plagiarism.**
7. Ensure that the narration provides clear enunciation, a professional tone, and is free of background noise.
8. The slide presentation must be professional and utilize a professional background and design.

Written Requirements

Your PowerPoint narration presentation should be 10 or more slides in length. Be sure to use appropriate APA format and cite your Reading or other sources that you used in your presentation.

The presentation should contain sufficient information to adequately answer the questions and contain no spelling, grammar, or APA errors. Remember that the slides will contain summary information of what you provide in your narration. Points deducted from grade for each writing, spelling, or grammar error are at your instructor's discretion.

Also review the university policy on plagiarism. If you have any questions, please contact your professor.

Directions for Submitting Your Lab

Place your presentation in the drobox for Unit 1 Lab.