

Identity Theft Task force

Date: 01/02/07

Public comment

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Substantive Comments

I. MAINTAINING SECURITY OF CONSUMER DATA

1. *Government Use of SSNs*

Comments on the issue and questions

There is no comment regarding steps that could help achieve the goal of reduced reliance on SSNs. The comment on the related issue regarding substitution of SSNs is that secured productivity resources such as SSNs is used to access important information; substitution may be an interim solution only. In Willis Harman's book An Incomplete Guide to the future, the author indicated "Access to knowledge rather than raw material...become the crucial resource of modern economies."; Therefore if there is no other way of achieving this goal, new technology should be invented.

2. *Comprehensive Record on Private Sector Use of SSNs*

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

3. *National Data Security Standards*

Comments on the questions

The Task Force should intervene¹ with National Data Security requirements (Technology Control/Change) on all commercial entities only in the national interest.

The public awareness program in the 1960 regarding the environmental degradation resulted in the National Environment Protection Act of 1970. It is recommended that similar Public awareness program

¹ Harman, W. Willis An Incomplete Guide to the Future. Stanford, California: Stanford Alumni Association, 1976, p 83

regarding the social consequence of the national requirements² of Data Security Standards be considered in the recommendations.

There is no comment regarding the other questions.

Additional facts

In the case of the National Environment Protection Act of 1970, the private sector understood the implication of the environmental degradation and was willing to made the social choice of protecting the environment³.

Additional consideration

1. It is recommended the national requirements for National Data Security Standards be modeled after the National Environment Protection Act of 1970 which included technology assessment in the strategy.
2. It appeared that the summary of issues - I. 5. Educating the Private Sector and Consumers on Safeguarding Data does not address the implications to the overall society due to the deficiency of a National Security Standard; therefore it is recommended that public awareness program that focus on the implication from the lack of a National Data Security Standards by the commercial entities be considered.

4. Breach Notice Requirement for Private Sector Entities Handling

Sensitive Consumer Information

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

5. Education of the Private Sector and Consumers on Safeguarding Data

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

II. PREVENTING THE MISUSE OF CONSUMER DATA

There is no comment regarding this issue and question.

III. VICTIM RECOVERY

1. Improving Victim Assistance

² Harman, W. Willis An Incomplete Guide to the Future. Stanford, California: Stanford Alumni Association, 1976, p 81

³ Harman, W. Willis An Incomplete Guide to the Future. Stanford, California: Stanford Alumni Association, 1976, p 87

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

2. Making Identity Theft Victim Whole

There is no comment regarding this issue and question.

3. National Program Allowing Identity Theft Victims to Obtain an Identification Document for Authentication Purposes

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

4. Gathering Information on the Effectiveness of Victim Recovery Measures

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT: PROSECUTING AND PUNISHING IDENTITY THIEVES

1. Establish a National Identity Theft Law Enforcement Center

Comments on the questions

Please consider leveraging existing "Coordination and Sharing of information" capabilities outlined in the "Sharing of Law Enforcement and Intelligence Information", OIG Top Management Challenges in the Department of Justice 2006⁴.

One of the potential core elements of that center could be the capability to provide real time checking status of complaints.

2. Ability of Law Enforcement to Receive Information from Financial Institutions

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

3. The Investigation and Prosecution of Identity Thieves Who Reside in Foreign Countries

⁴ USDOJ-Office of the Inspector General (OIG) web site, What's New. November 17, 2006

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

4. Prosecutions of Identity Theft

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

5. Targeted Enforcement Initiatives

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

6. Amendments to Federal Statutes and Guidelines Used to Prosecute Identity-Theft Related Offenses

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

7. Training for Law Enforcement Officer and Prosecutors

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.

8. Measuring Law Enforcement Efforts

There is no comment regarding this issue and questions.
