

A summer of disk-content

According to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, between April 2005 and Nov. 29, 2006, more than 97.3 million records containing sensitive personal information were compromised as the result of computer-related data breaches. Some of the compromises involved theft, others were caused by careless handling by agency employees.

In addition to the Department of Veterans Affairs' well-publicized data theft May 3, other federal agencies reported breaches, among them:

Date	Agency	Incident	Number of people affected
May 3	VA	Personal laptop PC stolen from home of VA employee.	26.5 million
May 5	VA	Data tape lost from VA facility in Indianapolis contained legal case data, including veterans personal information.	16,500
June 5	IRS	Laptop computer lost on plane contained job applicants' personal information.	291
June 12	Energy	Officials discovered that the personal data of contract employees at the National Nuclear Security Administration was breached eight months earlier in Albuquerque, N.M.	1,502
June 21	Agriculture	Hackers obtained personal data, including photos and Social Security numbers of current and former employees and contractors.	26,000
June 23	Navy	Navy personnel learned that their personal data and that of their family members were found on a civilian Web site.	30,000
July 7	Naval Safety Center	Social Security numbers and other personal data of Navy and Marine Corps aviators were exposed on NSC's Web site and on computer disks in the mail.	100,000+
Aug. 7	VA	Contractor Unisys reported the theft of a desktop PC containing the personal data of veterans registered at several VA medical facilities.	38,000
Aug. 21	Education	Two laptops stolen from contractor DTI Associates contained personal data on grant reviewers for the Teachers Incentive Fund.	43