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Bank customer data sold on eBay

An investigation is under way into how a computer containing bank customers' personal data was sold on eBay.



The computer, bought by IT manager Andrew Chapman for £77, had the sensitive details on its hard drive.

Mr Chapman, from Oxford, said the machine contained information on several million bank customers.

The details of customers of three banks were involved

**Can you be sure
that this would
not happen to you?**

**How would you tell
your contacts that
their information
had been leaked by a
hard drive not
disposed
of correctly?**

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UK identities sold for £80 online

By Dominic Casciani
BBC News home affairs reporter

Internet fraudsters sell complete financial identities for just £80, according to an online safety group.



The details packaged and sold online include names, addresses, passport numbers and confidential financial data such as credit card numbers.

Live marketplace: A criminal website selling UK identities

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Alarm sounded on second-hand kit

By Jason Palmer
Technology reporter, BBC News

For less than a pound a security expert has got front-door access to a council's internal network.



Andrew Mason from security firm Random Storm bought some network hardware from auction site eBay for 99p.

When he switched it on and plugged it in, the device automatically connected to the internal network of Kirklees Council in West Yorkshire.

The server allows privileged access to a network from afar

Winning bid: **£0.99**
 Ended: **31-Aug-08 16:23:56**
 Postage costs: **£3.00**
 Other Cost: **Other Cost**
 Service to: **United Kingdom**
 Post to: **United Kingdom**
 Item location: **Cheshire, United Kingdom**
 History: **1 bid**
 Winning bidder: **mason100**

**Are your current
data destruction
policies keeping
your data secure?**

190 million could be affected by data loss

A recent survey by the BBC stated that less than 25% of old computers sold or given away by companies have had data removed from them. Over 75% had sold or given away computers but only 23% cleansed the data to make it unrecoverable.

In this challenging climate criminals will go to even greater lengths to obtain the information they need. KPMG's Data Loss Barometer predicts that the number of individuals affected by data loss around the world could soar to 190 million in 2009, compared 92 million in the previous year. (bbc.co.uk)

“The risks of drives going to the wrong location or someone at a third party not following procedure properly do leave you at risk.”

Mr Winter. Chief Engineer of data recovery at Kroll Ontrack UK

So what to do...

Do you send your hard drives to a third party to dispose of them? How can you ensure that your third party are following procedures correctly?

What happens when leased equipment is returned? Does your supplier dispose of the hard drives? Do they just lease the machines again to other companies or individuals without destroying your data?

What would happen if your hard drives were hi-jacked whilst in transit for destruction? Never underestimate the determination of today's criminals and fraudsters.

Physical destruction is the only option

Recycling computer equipment is a necessary way forward for businesses today. To ensure peace of mind you need to completely physically destroy the hard drives on site.

“If you want to destroy sensitive information on a computer, you're looking at total destruction of the hard drive as the only 100% option.”

Simon Dawson Financial Fraud Investigator for bbc.co.uk.



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“The Bustadrive, then, looks like it’ll thwart all but the wealthiest and most determined of hard disk hackers... it’s far cheaper than both competing products and other services that offer to shred, crush and destroy hard disks.”

Mike Jennings, PCPRO



“If you destroy a decent number of disks then the Bustadrive could pay for itself within weeks.”

Mike Jennings, PCPRO

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