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Create An Effective Security Plan

Wisconsin State Journal :: CAPITAL REGION BUSINESS JOURNAL :: 3

Tuesday, January 1, 2008
By Ellen Williams-Masson

From a multistage hacker attack at Monster.com to the British government's recent loss of computer disks containing personal information for almost half its population, data leaks are making the news as identity theft becomes one of the fastest growing crimes in the 21st century.

Attorney and privacy expert Jacqueline Klosek stressed that companies "can find themselves in trouble because they have information they don't need and don't use it properly."

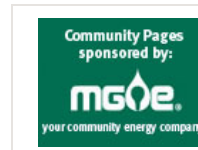
In addition to not collecting social security numbers or health-care information unless necessary, Klosek advised businesses to use third-party payment processors whenever possible to avoid storing financial information.

"Although there are rules that protect the consumer and the retailer in the instance of fraud involving credit card information, we are starting to see a shift where efforts are being made to try to hold retailers responsible ... and it's also something that consumers are most concerned about," Klosek said.

The Federal Trade Commission advises businesses to follow five principles for an effective data security plan:

- * Take stock and know what personal information you have in your paper and electronic files
- * Scale down and keep only the information you need
- * Lock and protect the data that you keep
- * Pitch and properly dispose of what you no longer need
- * Plan ahead and create a data breach plan to handle security incidents

\ More information is available at www.ftc.gov.



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