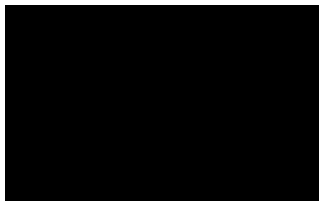




October 12, 2009



This letter is to inform you of a computer security incident on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus that may have exposed records containing your name and Social Security Number.

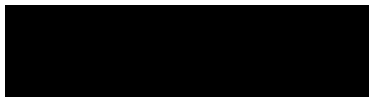
We are sharing with you as many details about the incident as we can while taking care to not disclose certain details that could potentially assist in the misuse of the exposed records. On August 31, 2009, the University of Wisconsin-Madison became aware that approximately 40 computers in the Department of Chemistry were the target of computer hacking. As is common in these situations, the identities of those who obtained unauthorized access remain unknown. The machines were used as part of an underground network distributing music, movies, television shows and commercial software. During our investigation and examination, we discovered that computers had been compromised, in most cases, over the last 18 months, with the earliest compromise occurring in December 2001. In addition, we found that some of the compromised computers contained names associated with Social Security Numbers that were reflected in documents used for official university business. Our investigation identified your name and Social Security Number among the documents we reviewed.

The University would like to take this opportunity to apologize to you for this situation. The University takes computer and data security very seriously, making consistent and strong efforts to protect thousands of computers located on the campus. There is no evidence that the unauthorized individuals were aware of your personal data on the compromised computers or that it has been retrieved or misused. However, we wanted to make you aware of the incident and let you know what is being done so that such a situation is not repeated.

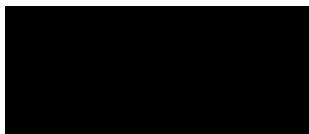
Since learning of this issue, additional security tools are being applied, departmental controlled/owned computers have been scanned to locate and remove or encrypt personal data, network monitoring has been increased, a central update service has been installed and anti-virus activity messages have been redirected to a central location for monitoring. In addition, while portions of the operations of the affected unit were behind a firewall, all operations in the department now reside behind a restrictive firewall.

If you have any questions about this incident or our response, or would like further information about the University's information security practices, please contact Matt Sanders at (608) 263-4693 or msanders@chem.wisc.edu.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Hamers
Chair, Department of Chemistry



Ronald D. Kraemer
Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Vice Provost for
Information Technology

Department of Chemistry

University of Wisconsin-Madison • 1101 University Avenue • Madison, Wisconsin • 53706-1322
Information: 608/263-4693 • E-mail: msanders@chem.wisc.edu