

Founder of IDTheftSecurity.com warns that identity theft can happen to consumers even when they are not consuming

(BOSTON, Massachusetts – May 5, 2005 – IDTheftSecurity.com) Fears of mass identity theft struck again this week, with the reported loss of hundreds of thousands of employees' records at one of the world's foremost media companies. According to a Boston, Mass.-based security expert, the incident demonstrates that everyone is a potential victim of this crime.

“Even at one of the world's largest media companies, supposedly a technology-savvy organization, employees, apparently, are still vulnerable to identity theft,” said Robert Siciliano, a nationally televised and quoted authority on personal security and identity theft.

“Has Time Warner read its own publications this past year?” asked Siciliano. “Is the company aware of what has been reported regarding major breaches of data?”

Shortly after the identity thefts at ChoicePoint Inc. surfaced, Siciliano appeared on CNBC's "The Closing Bell" to discuss the dangers of identity theft.

On May 2, Bloomberg's Cecile Daurat, along with others, reported that the personal information of 600,000 Time Warner Inc. employees, both past and present, had been lost. According to the report, a container holding 40 back-up tapes has disappeared.

“An employee has no choice but to relinquish valuable identifying information to her employer, exposing the data to the whims of lax security,” said Siciliano. “Employers entrusted with this information should protect it as if it were their own.”

On April 8, SearchSecurity.com quoted him in response to renowned security technologist Bruce Schneier's criticism of two-factor authentication, a technology Siciliano favors for staving identity theft.

CNN's “Wolf Blitzer Reports” featured Siciliano and other experts on April 12 after LexisNexis reported more accounts breached. Siciliano is author of "The Safety Minute: 01" and an upcoming book, "Identity Theft Pandemic: Curing the Identity Theft Virus."

Information continues to disappear elsewhere, and Time Warner is only the latest in this year's string of data breaches:

-On April 21, Linda Rosencrance of *Computerworld* reported an incident at Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business. The school informed 19,000 students, alumni, and faculty that their personal information had potentially been compromised. Recent weeks have seen similar incidences at Tufts University and Boston College.

-On April 20, Emily Fredrix of *The Associated Press* reported that Ameritrade Holding Corp. had notified 200,000 current and former customers of the loss of a backup tape containing their personal information.

-On April 18, *The Associated Press* reported that a March 2005 incident of identity theft involving a DSW Shoe Warehouse database of customers' credit card numbers and names had become more severe than first thought. According to the company, the original number of identities stolen had risen to 1.4 million, a tenfold increase.

"We are witnessing a freefall," said Siciliano. "Data is dropping out of sight left and right."

"In most of these cases," Siciliano added, "the official communiqué to customers follows a theme. This theme says the data breach poses no known threat to customers' identities. This theme is wishful thinking."

Meanwhile, on May 2, *Red Herring* reported on the latest findings out of the SANS Institute, which found more than 600 new Internet security vulnerabilities.

"High technology is forcing us to rethink the way we identify people and safeguard important information from crooks," Siciliano said.

"Right now, the bad guys are winning," Siciliano concluded. "We need a uniform response from government and industry immediately to combat the threat before identity theft cripples our economy and irrevocably shatters people's trust in longstanding institutions."

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Siciliano provides consumer education solutions to Fortune 500 companies and their clients. He is available to discuss identity theft as it pertains to personal finances, the terrorism threat, and national security.

A speaker featured on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, "ABC News with Sam Donaldson," "The Montel Williams Show," "Maury Povich," "Sally Jesse Raphael" and "The Howard Stern Show," Siciliano leads seminars nationwide.

Siciliano has been quoted in Reuters, RealtyTimes.com, Woman's Day, Good Housekeeping, Mademoiselle, The New York Post, The New York Times, The Washington Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Christian Science Monitor and other publications.

Siciliano's blog is available at www.IDTheftSecurity.blogspot.com. Siciliano can be reached at 1 (888) SICILIANO (742-4542). The following URLs will take readers to his Web site and information about his work:

Main Web site: <http://www.IDTheftSecurity.com>

Siciliano's biography: http://www.idtheftsecurity.com/PDF/11x17_1wc.pdf

Testimonials: http://www.idtheftsecurity.com/PDF/11x17_3wc.pdf

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