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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Your Personal Information: Protecting it from Exploitation

"The theft of your personally identifiable information is a frightening prospect; however, there are things you can do to protect yourself, your family, your colleagues, and your finances."

Bill Evanina
Director, NCSC



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What Could Happen

Foreign Intelligence Services or Cybercriminals could use PII to exploit you and your associates

- Family
- Friends
- Colleagues
- Neighbors





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Personal Information



current and
previous
addresses

J. Doe

name/ssn

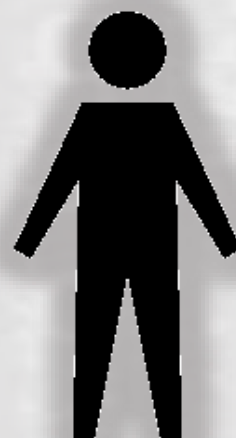


credit info

criminal
history



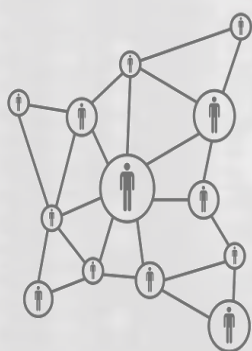
family info



medical
& health
info



foreign travel
& contacts



professional &
personal
relationships



past and present
clearances

email address



phone & fax #





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Why You Might
Be A Target

You could be targeted because you have information or are involved in activities of interest to foreign governments, criminals and extremists. Access to you can provide access to:

- Facilities
- Networks
- Personnel
- Sensitive information, intellectual property and controlled technologies

Spearphishing

- Entice you into taking actions that could compromise computers or network
- Mislead you into opening a malicious attachment or link

Social Media

- Befriended via social media while posing as former acquaintance, job recruiter, etc. (eg, Facebook, LinkedIn)
- Collected information on you from social media postings

Human Targeting

- Meet you at venue of interest, reveal shared professions, interests, ideology, etc.
- Tests to see if you will wittingly or unwittingly provide information



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What you Can Do: Financial Actions

First, change passwords on all financial accounts.

Second, monitor your financial accounts and look for any unexplained activity or changes in your credit score and reports.

Third, notify creditors, financial institutions, and credit reporting agencies of unexplained activities.

Fourth, put a fraud alert on your credit report.

Fifth, if you notice fraudulent activity, go to the FTC website and complete an ID theft complaint form.

Sixth, report the unexplained activity to your local police department. Provide them a copy of the FTC form, and request a copy of the police report.



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What You Can Do: Cyber Actions

First, do not open e-mails from individuals that do not normally e-mail you. Call them first.

Second, do not open e-mails that appear odd or out of context from associates. Call them first.

Third, do not open unexpected correspondence.

Fourth, if you begin receiving calls from friends that have received e-mails you didn't send you may be a victim of spear phishing.

Fifth, report any suspicious activity to your security officer and follow their instructions.



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What You Can Do: Avoid Being a Target

First, when traveling overseas, be cautious about those who seem to have a lot in common with you. Be wary if they wish to maintain contact with you once you return to the States.

Second, be aware of your behavior travelling overseas.

Third, be cautious about foreigners who approach you in the U.S. who seem to have many similar interests.

Fourth, be cautious of foreigners who make third party introductions.

Fifth, be circumspect about unsolicited offers of travel, study, or employment, especially those involving travel to a foreign country.

Sixth, report any suspicious contacts to your security officer and follow their instructions.



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Call to Action



TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS



REPORT CONCERNS TO SECURITY

“SEE SOMETHING ... SAY SOMETHING”



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[More Information](#)



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov)



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[NCSC.gov](https://www.ncsc.gov)