

# Privacy, data discs and realistic risk

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# Outline

- Privacy
- Breach of data security
- Potential implications
- How secure is our system
- How secure should it be

# Privacy

1. Names
2. Address
3. Phone numbers
4. Bank details



# Breach of Data Security

October 18, 2007, 2 computer disc from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) containing details of 7 million families and 25 million individuals went missing. November 20, Paul Gray, director of HMRC resigned.

Discs includes:

- Names, addresses
- Bank details
- National insurance numbers
- Real names and new identities of 350 people who have their identity changed after giving evidence against major criminals

# Breach of Data Security

May, 2007, details of 3 million British learner drivers were lost in America.

Names and criminal histories of prisoners, which should have been sent to Norfolk police, where the prisoners were to be relocated, arrived at a private company.

Information on health authority staff, including salary and pension details, was also accidentally sent to private companies

# Potential Serious Implications

1. Identity Theft, Benefit Fraud
2. Drug trafficking
3. People trafficking
4. Funding terrorist activities with credit card frauds.



# Misplaced data

## Case Study:

A data set of 20 million web queries of 650 000 Americans, over a 3-month period, was released in late July 2006. Individuals can be identified from the nature of the searches they had carried out. Search of a name provided an immediate and direct link to the other searches they had carried out. One user searched for websites on how to commit murder. Law suits have resulted and the Chief Technology Officer resigned.

# Globalisation

Banks and other institutions become more global

Databases:

1. Bank files
2. Tax office
3. Club memberships
4. University list
5. Electoral rolls

**Data  
shadow**



# Risk and Benefits

If these data falls into the wrong hands, they will be misused.

## Phone record storage

Risk: Invasion of privacy

Benefit: Tracked one of the suspects of london tube-bombing from London to Paris to Milan to Rome where he is finally arrested

# Risk and Benefits

## Bank records

Risk: They might be accessed by a dishonest banker

Benefit: Modern life will be impossible without banking services.

Balance between benefits and risk. We can hope to minimise as much risk as possible but we have to accept that some risk will remain.

# Case study (TIS)

## Total Information System (TIS) 2001–2003

-aim to keep track of people's movements, interactions and transactions so that potential terrorist activities can be detected in time.

A huge data base that was created with a good aim, however, it infringed on individuals privacy and was thought to be a bad balance on risk and benefits.

# Conclusion

BALANCE



Thank you

