

# Security and Privacy Considerations in Digital Death

Locasto, Massimi, DePasquale

NSPW 2011



# Security and privacy considerations in digital death

Locasto, Massimi, DePasquale

# QUIZ

No IRB

Refuse if you want

Results @ end

# Preamble

Let's refrain from swimming in legal waters  
unless we know what specific sharks we're  
dealing with

International perspectives / anecdotes / insights  
welcome

# Main Point

The accrual of a heterogeneous, distributed digital identity footprint presents unique and interesting authentication, authorization, and privacy issues — particularly related to how such an identity collection should be retired after a person dies.

We have a lot of authentication trash – and we don't know what to do with it

Boss: we need security


Underling: /googles for “HTML password form”

# WTF?

METRICS OPEN DATA SITES GALLERY WHAT'S NEW

## Sign In to Data.Gov

You must be logged in to access this page

 Sign in with your **Socrata ID**

Use your Email and Password to sign into all **Socrata powered** sites.

Email

Password [Forgot?](#)

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Authentication now pollutes our  
online experience.



# Epsilon E-Mail Hack: How You Can Protect Yourself

By Bill Snyder, CIO

April 11, 2011 10:48 AM ET

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Most of the time I only hear from my credit card companies when I owe them money or when they want to sell me a new service. That's changed; now I'm being bombarded with notes telling me that a [company I never heard of](#) has been successfully hacked and these still unknown bad guys now have my name and e-mail address -- and maybe more.

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## Air Miles among firms hit by huge data breach

CBC News Posted: Apr 5, 2011 11:16 AM ET | Last Updated: Apr 6, 2011 8:01 AM ET  112



A growing list of companies including giant rewards firm Air Miles and hotelier Marriott are



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# Epsilon E-Mail Hack: How You Can Protect Yourself

By Bill Snyder, CIO

April 11, 2011 10:48 AM ET

April 5, 2011

TIAA-CREF has been informed by Epsilon, a vendor we use to send emails, that files containing the first names, last names and email addresses of some TIAA-CREF participants were accessed without authorization.

We have not shared any participant account or financial information with Epsilon. So, this incident has not compromised your TIAA-CREF accounts and they remain secure. For your security, however, we wanted to call this matter to your attention.

As always, do not reply to emails asking for your personal information, account numbers or any other type of confidential information. TIAA-CREF will never ask for your personal information or login credentials in an email.

Below are some additional precautions we recommend you follow:

- Do not give your TIAA-CREF user ID or password in email.
- Do not respond to emails that require you to enter personal or financial information directly into the email.
- Do not reply to emails asking you to send personal information.
- Do not use your email address as a login ID or password.
- Do not respond to emails threatening to close your account if you do not provide personal information

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused and will keep you informed of relevant updates. For more information on TIAA-CREF's commitment to keeping your personal information secure, please visit: [http://www.tiaa-cref.org/public/about/inside/topics/index.html?tc\\_inlk=bottomutility&tc\\_mcid=emepsilon0411](http://www.tiaa-cref.org/public/about/inside/topics/index.html?tc_inlk=bottomutility&tc_mcid=emepsilon0411).



A growing list of companies including giant rewards firm Air Miles and hotelier Marriott are



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By Bill Snyder, CIO

April 11, 2011 10:48 AM ET



rewardzone

MYRZ.COM

BESTBUY.COM

April 5, 2011

TIAA-CREF has been informed of a security incident involving email addresses of some TIAA-CREF accounts and that

We have not shared any personal information from TIAA-CREF accounts and that

As always, do not reply to email or provide any information. TIAA-CREF will

Below are some additional

- Do not give your personal information
- Do not respond to unsolicited emails
- Do not reply to unsolicited emails
- Do not use your account information
- Do not respond to unsolicited emails

We regret any inconvenience caused by this incident. TIAA-CREF's commitment to you is our top priority. For more information, visit [www.tiaa-cref.com/public/about/inside/topics/ir](http://www.tiaa-cref.com/public/about/inside/topics/ir)

Dear Valued Best Buy Customer,

On March 31, we were informed by Epsilon, a company we use to send emails to our customers, that files containing the email addresses of some Best Buy customers were accessed without authorization.

We have been assured by Epsilon that the only information that may have been obtained was your email address and that the accessed files did not include any other information. A rigorous assessment by Epsilon determined that no other information is at risk. We are actively investigating to confirm this.

For your security, however, we wanted to call this matter to your attention. We ask that you remain alert to any unusual or suspicious emails. As our experts at Geek Squad would tell you, be very cautious when opening links or attachments from unknown senders.

In keeping with best industry security practices, Best Buy will never ask you to provide or confirm any information, including credit card numbers, unless you are on our secure e-commerce site, [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com). If you receive an email asking for personal information, delete it. It did not come from Best Buy.

Our service provider has reported this incident to the appropriate authorities.

We regret this has taken place and for any inconvenience this may have caused you. We take your privacy very seriously, and we will continue to work diligently to protect your personal information. For more information on keeping your data safe, please visit: <http://www.geeksquad.com/do-it-yourself/tech-tip/six-steps-to-keeping-your-data-safe.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A growing list of companies including giant rewards firm Air Miles and hotelier Marriott are



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Epsilon

By Bill Snyder, CIO  
April 11, 2011 10:4



find a hotel

EXPLORE &

at Yourself

MYRZ.COM

BESTBUY.COM

April 5, 2011

TIAA-CREF has b  
email addresses

We have not shar  
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As always, do not  
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We regret any inconvenience t  
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<http://www.geeksquad.com/do-it-yourself/tech-tip/six-steps-to-keeping-your-data-safe.aspx>  
[public/about/inside/topics/index.nfm?tc\\_ink=bottomutility&tc\\_mcid=emepsilon0411](http://public/about/inside/topics/index.nfm?tc_ink=bottomutility&tc_mcid=emepsilon0411)

April 4, 2011

Dear Marriott Customer,

We were recently notified by Epsilon, a marketing vendor used by Marriott International, Inc. to manage customer emails, that an unauthorized third party accessed a number of Epsilon's accounts including Marriott's email list.

In all likelihood, this will not impact you. However, we recommend that you to be on the alert for spam emails requesting personal or sensitive information. Please understand and be assured that Marriott does not send emails requiring customers to verify personal information.

We take your privacy very seriously. Marriott has a long-standing commitment protecting the privacy of the personal information that our guests entrust to us. We regret this has taken place and apologize for any inconvenience.

Please visit our [FAQ](#) to learn more.

Sincerely,

Marriott International, Inc.

<http://www.geeksquad.com/do-it-yourself/tech-tip/six-steps-to-keeping-your-data-safe.aspx>

Sincerely,

send emails to our customers, that files accessed without authorization.

may have been obtained was your email information. A rigorous assessment by us is currently investigating to confirm this.

attention. We ask that you remain alert to what we would tell you, be very cautious when

we ask you to provide or confirm any information on a secure e-commerce site, delete it. It did not come from

authorities.

may have caused you. We take your privacy seriously and protect your personal information. For

s and

OUR

on



A growing list of companies including giant rewards firm Air Miles and hotelier Marriott are



Stay Connected

September 22, 2006 4:00 AM PDT

# Taking passwords to the grave

By Elinor Mills

Staff Writer, CNET News

## Related Stories

William Talcott, a prominent San Francisco poet with dual Irish citizenship, had fans all over the world. But when he died in June of bo

FAMILY VALUE | JULY 23, 2011

## PINs That Needle Families

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Taking 15 minutes now to jot down your online passwords could save your family hours of frustration after you are gone.

As we all know, large chunks of our lives, both financial and personal, are lived online—bank statements, stock trades and email archives are all available with a few keystrokes. But when people die, their passwords often go with them, along with access to their digital assets.

Leon LaBrecque, a certified financial planner in Troy, Mich., says he has encountered the problem with a number of clients, including one who also was a friend who died of cancer. Mr. LaBrecque's friend had told him that his financial records were on his computer, but when the planner asked the client's wife for his password, she didn't know it.



"I looked at the dog sitting in the chair next to the computer, and typed in his name, Pepper. It worked, but I've been in other situations where we've had to hire a computer programmer to get into a hard drive," Mr. LaBrecque says.

He is encouraging clients to fill out a free form that includes user names and passwords to

# lifehacker

DEATHHACKER

## What Should I Do About My Virtual Life After Death?

Dear Lifehacker,

What Should I Do About My Virtual Life After Death?

BY JASCO

Share

# Blogger announces own death after battle with cancer

By Katie Silver, CNN

May 9, 2011 12:44 p.m. EDT

## STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- A man leaves a post-mortem message published after his battle with cancer
- "Here it is. I'm dead," read the last internet post of Derek Miller
- News of Miller's death and his final post online went viral

**(CNN)** -- A Canadian man who blogged about his battle with cancer has died, but not without leaving a post-mortem message.

"Here it is. I'm dead," read the last internet post of Derek K. Miller, who died last week after more than four years of blogging about his struggle with colorectal cancer.

"In advance, I asked that once my body finally shut down from the punishments of my cancer, then my family and friends publish this prepared message I wrote -- the first part of the process of turning this from an active website to an archive," he wrote on his blog, penmachine.com.

A day after his death, a longtime friend, Alistair Calder, published the final message.

"I felt as though I was putting Derek's ... last moments on the web," Calder said. "It was really, really, really hard."

# HOW DO WE MANAGE THIS IDENTITY FOOTPRINT?



# Thanatosensitive Design

## *HCI at the End of Life*

Understanding Death, Dying, and the Digital

*A Workshop at CHI 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia*

### News

#### Description

- Mar 19, 2010: [Schedule posted.](#)
- Join our group on [Facebook!](#)
- Feb 12, 2010: [Position papers posted.](#)

#### Themes

# Yahoo! Steps Up

“No Right of Survivorship and Non-Transferability. You agree that your Yahoo! account is non-transferable and any rights to your Yahoo! ID or contents within your account terminate upon your death. Upon receipt of a copy of a death certificate, your account may be terminated and all contents therein permanently deleted.”

# Anyone Else?

# Anyone Else?

## How to Contact Twitter About a Deceased User



In the event of the death of a Twitter user, we can close the account and help family members recover public Tweets from the account.

Please provide us the following:

1. Your first and last name, contact information (including email address), and your relationship to the deceased person.
2. The username of the Twitter account, or a link to the account's public profile page.
3. A link to a public obituary article.

You may contact us at [privacy@twitter.com](mailto:privacy@twitter.com), by fax, or by mail at the following address :

Twitter Inc.,  
c/o: Trust & Safety  
795 Folsom Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
Fax : 415-222-9958

We will answer by email while specifying which information is needed.

We may not hand over access to the account, or share any non public information related to the account.

# No Cohesion

Category	Service	Death/Transfer Clause
Email {US, UK, Canada}	Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo	No, No, Yes
Social {US, UK, Canada}	Facebook, G+, LinkedIn	No, No, No
Ehealth {US}	MS Health Vault, Google Health	Yes, No
Banking {US, Canada}	USAA, BoA, Wells Fargo, Citibank, Scotia, BMO, RBC	No*, No, Yes*, Yes, No
Cloud Services {US}	Amazon, Google, MS	No, Yes, No

# Discussion

Don't store data in the first place.

Proactive deletion.

Unified ID management. <shudder>

Fine-grained delegation of DigitalID inheritance.

# Sum Up

Death throws a curveball for security design, but we may have the technology to mostly handle this kind of event with proper planning and forethought.

Our Digital Footprints are way too large.

# BACKUP



# Definition of Digital Identity

We see identity as including (1) credentials (i.e., usernames, passwords, passphrases, email addresses, public keys, certificates, identifiers, roles, password “hint” questions and answers, SiteKey phrases and pictures) used to authenticate to the service and authorize different uses, (2) user preferences for interacting with that online identity, (3) personal information (i.e., names, account numbers, address, contact information, date of birth, sex) stored by the service, and (4) content (e.g., account balances, comments, links, likes, posts, medical ailments) generated during the interaction of the user with the service.