

**Data Theft Home**

**Data Theft
Update (October
2003)**

**Latest Statement
from the U.S.
Attorney (March
14, 2003)**

**Initial Statement
from the U.S.
Attorney (March
6, 2003)**

**Initial Report
(March 5, 2003,
10:00 p.m.)**

Am I Affected?

**What We Are
Doing to Protect
SSNs**

**ID Protection
Resources**

**How To Contact
Us**

Español

([Lea esta página en español.](#))

Data Theft Incident Response

The University of Texas at Austin regrets that one of its administrative databases was breached in March by a deliberate attack through the Internet. Thousands of names and Social Security numbers were illegally accessed and downloaded to a personal computer. Fortunately, it appears that prompt action by the Travis County District Attorney's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Secret Service has secured the stolen data before they could be misused or further disseminated.

From Sunday evening, March 2, when the security breach was discovered, until Wednesday evening, March 5, the University devoted all available resources to identifying the origin of the attack and working with law enforcement to secure the data. Since March 5, when a search warrant was executed and a computer and related materials confiscated, the University has focused on communication with those affected by the security breach and with the general public.

In particular, the University wishes to call attention to the March 14 statement of United States Attorney Johnny Sutton: "At this point, there is no indication that the stolen data was further disseminated or used to anyone's detriment." This statement followed the filing of a criminal complaint against a suspect in the attack.

While the U.S. Attorney's statement is reassuring, the University does not seek to minimize the concern raised by this incident. Accordingly, this Web site makes available several communications mechanisms for concerned individuals, as well as a set of resources for monitoring credit records and protecting your identity.

If you are unfamiliar with the origins of this incident and the University's response, see "Initial Report."

The "Am I Affected" page lists the three ranges of Social Security numbers that were used to attack the the University system. A total of 2,670,797 SSNs fall in this range, whereas only 55,200 SSNs were exposed from the the University database. If you have had no affiliation with UT Austin or any University of Texas System component, it is highly unlikely that you are affected, even if your SSN falls within range.

If you believe you are affected, or might be affected, we encourage you to complete the online form at "How To Contact Us" so that we are assured of an up-to-date postal mail and e-mail address for you. As of October 2003, the University has successfully contacted 92 percent of the individuals known to be affected by the data theft incident, and continues its efforts to reach the remaining affected population.

Updated 2003 November 4

To be contacted by the University, please complete the [Web form](#).

For questions or comments, call the **DataTheft Hotline** at **475-9020** or toll-free at **(866) 657-9400**.

For privacy concerns read our [privacy policy](#).