

Technology risk news

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Security: US oil companies targeted in e-mail attacks

At least three US oil companies were victims of highly targeted, e-mail-borne attacks designed to siphon valuable data from their corporate networks and send it abroad. The attacks against Marathon Oil, ExxonMobil, and ConocoPhillips **began with e-mails sent to senior executives that included links to booby-trapped Web sites**. The attacks appeared to penetrate the companies' networks and target specific information.

[Full report in The Register](#)

Security: Betting agency giant investigates data loss

Ladbrokes is investigating the loss of thousands of customer details from one of its data bases, **but is reassuring gamblers that the information did not include bank details or passwords**. *The Register* reports that a man, who claimed to represent a Melbourne-based firm, said he'd been given the information by a relatively junior member of staff. Ladbrokes said passing on the information was a criminal offence and it was working with police and the Information Commissioner's Office to identify the culprit.

[Full report in The Register](#)



Copyright: US regulators must ban RIM – Motorola

Motorola has asked US regulators to ban Research in Motion (RIM), the Canadian firm behind the Blackberry, from importing its products into the US. The phone company claims **that the Blackberry maker has been illegally using its Wi-Fi related technology**. *BBC News* reports that a court case is already pending in the US but Motorola has accused RIM of 'delaying tactics'. Motorola has lodged its complaint with the US International Trade Commission in the hope of a quicker result.

[Full BBC News report](#)



Security: Sony's PlayStation 3 hacked

A US hacker who gained notoriety for unlocking Apple's iPhone as a teenager says that he has now hacked Sony's PlayStation 3, reports *BBC News*. George Hotz said the hack, which could allow people to run pirated games or homemade software, took him five weeks. **He said he was still refining the technique but intended to post full details online soon**. The PS3 is the only games console that has not been hacked, despite being on the market for three years.

[Full BBC News report](#)

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Security: NHS hospital promises to deal with data loss

Mark Hackett, CEO of Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust, has promised to deal properly with data security **after one of his staff lost a laptop computer with 33 000 patients' records on it**, notes a report in *The Register*. The laptop was left unattended in a retinal scan van. It was password protected but not encrypted. Sally-Anne Poole, head of investigations at the Information Commissioner's Office, said: 'Storing large volumes of personal information on portable devices is unnecessarily risky.'

[Full report in The Register](#)

Domain: Nominet announces new 'investigations lock'

The body in charge of the UK's domain names, such as those ending in .co.uk, has given domain name registration companies **the power to suspend any name if it is presented with evidence of suspected illegal activity**, notes a report on the *OUT-LAW.com* site. Nominet has announced a new 'investigations lock', which can freeze every domain name operated by a person without limit.

[Full report on the OUT-LAW.com site](#)

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