



Identity Management Systems: the forensic dimension

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Private Lives and Corporate Risk

this year's theme



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Let's explore a Paradox...

- Identity Management Systems have to be robust enough to have evidential value in legal proceedings
- Identity Management Systems have a close relative – called Surveillance Methodologies
- The everyday activities of Digital Forensics may expose activities – and hence potentially invade privacy – in ways never intended by designers of IMSs and law policy makers



Where we need to get to

- Nature of IMSs
 - and their weaknesses
- Nature of Digital Forensics
 and digital forensics research
- Applicable Law and regulation
- Understanding the Paradox



- Enabling Technology
- Management System
- Framework of Policies, Regulations and Law



Enabling Technology

- Uniquely to identify some-one to whom "privileges" can be granted
 - → Something you know, hold, are, do; location
 - Passwords
 - Tokens, RFID
 - Biometrics
 - Specific terminal
- Means to recognise unique identifier, allocate privileges associated with credentials presented
 - → Operating System + Database + Applications



Management System

- Access Control List
 - → Authenticate against database
 - → Grant privileges against criteria to provide authorisation
 - → Authoritative Reissue, Aging, Revocation
- Tokens, RFID
 - → Authenticate against database
 - → Grant privileges against criteria to provide authorisation
 - → Authoritative Reissue, Aging, Revocation
- Biometrics
 - → Authenticate against database
 - → Grant privileges against criteria to provide authorisation
- Specific terminal
 - → Usually deployed in combination with one of the above



Framework of Policies, Regulations and Law

- Policies:
 - what are the overall needs, purposes and requirements of IMS?
 - > what unwanted side-effects need to be avoided?
- Regulations, Law:
 - → eg compliance with Data Protection, Human Rights, Employment, Surveillance, Business Records, laws, audit and desirable standards, compliance

- IMS for account management, implementing authentication, authorisation, and accounting,
- IMS for profiling of user data by an organisation, e.g. detailed log files or data warehouses which support e.g., personalised services or the analysis of customer behaviour
- IMS for user-controlled context-dependent role and pseudonym management.





IMS for account management, implementing authentication, authorisation, and accounting

- Used by large organisations for access control to computer systems and networks, etc
 - → Inter-company, purchasing systems, ISPs, banks
- eg conventional user-name/password accesscontrol systems, single-sign-on systems, some forms of public key infrastructures



IMS for profiling of user data by an organisation, e.g. detailed log files or data warehouses which support e.g., personalised services or the analysis of customer behaviour

 eg, activity tracking, use of cookies, facilities, "market info/CRM" systems – Amazon, many online retailers, Google, Ebay, cookie deployers – adriver, adclick, hitslink, webstats, doubleclick

- IMS for user-controlled context-dependent role and pseudonym management.
- Not many practical examples but where user presents an "identity" limited to the immediate needs of the transaction



- The pro-privacy advocates prefer IMSs that are:
- Limited to the immediate needs of the specific transaction in hand – "credential not identity"
- Do not give more information than is needed
- Give the user control over each transaction
- Use a federated strategy interoperability or linkage of different IMSs, where needed and where agreed



Enabling Technology

- Something you know, hold, are, do; location
 - Passwords, Tokens, Biometrics
- Passwords
 - → Overlooked, stolen, password files cracked
- Tokens
 - → Stolen, copied/compromised,
- Biometrics
 - → Biometric reader weakened, compromised,
- Specific Terminal
 - → Terminal hardware identity compromised

In general: eavesdropping on communications links, man-in-the-middle attacks

Enabling Technology

- Means to recognise unique identifier, allocate privileges associated with credentials presented
- Failure at point of issue: incorrect credentials accepted when password/token issued, biometric linked to individual identity
- Failure / compromise of database of validating data against presentation of credentials
- Failure of database/other technology in granting privileges
 against credentials
- Failure properly to handle re-issue of lost credentials, age and re-issue passwords/tokens, fully to revoke obsolete credentials



Management System

- System fails to perform as specified; emergency measures lack adequate security
- Access Control List / Validation database, compromised
- Data accessed unauthorised or ultra vires
- Data released ultra vires
- System poorly protected and breached from outside
 - → Logically / Physically
- Corruption within management personnel
- Data aggregated with other sources



In general: anything based on ICT will be subject over time to erosion

- What once worked well becomes weakened by:
 - Prolonged Technical Examination
 - Spread of information about vulnerabilities fast and easy over the Internet
 - → Increasing computer power makes brute force attack more feasible Moore's Law variant
 - → Falling computer costs makes brute force attack more feasible
 - → "Esoteric" hardware/software/technology becomes widely available



Forensic Computing

Most presentations are along the lines of:

- What computer forensics can deliver
 - → Hard disk analysis
 - Network data capture and analysis
- How to do computer forensics
- Protocols and Procedures

For our purpose I want to look at the nature of Research in Forensic Computing



Aims of Digital Forensics

- To identify sources of evidence
- To acquire evidence
- To preserve evidence
- To analyse evidence
- To identify non-obvious sources of evidence



How to Acquire Evidence

By pre-planning – system design

- Access Control Systems
- → Audit logs
- → Serialing of transactions
- → Authentication of People, Files, Transactions
- → Digital Finger-printing of documents, logs, etc

Forensic Computing

- → Unintended "digital footprints"
- → Evidence identification
- → Evidence Preservation
- → Evidence Analysis, often based on reverse-engineering of OS, apps, etc

History of Computer Evidence

- 1950s-1980s: print-out as evidence
 - Practicalities of production
 - Admissibility

198x >: data recovery on hard-disks

- → Techniques
- → Forensic Reliability
- → Interpretation
- 198x >: network forensics
 - → Analysis of Log Files
 - → Capture of data in transmission
 - → Forensic Reliability
 - → Interpretation

History of Computer Evidence

- 199x >: data recovery on hard-disks
 - → Reverse engineering to understand artefacts
 - Growth of integrated commercial forensic analysis products
- 199x >: telecoms, ISP data
- 199x>: protocols, warrants for seizure of many sorts of digital data
- 200x>: analysis of PDAs, cellphones, cameras, MP3 players, digital cctv



History of Computer Evidence

- Post 9/11: LE-friendly surveillance legislation:
- increases range of data that can seized
- increases circumstances in which data can be seized
- data retention regimes



Aims of Digital Forensic Research

- To identify potential sources of digital evidence, chiefly unintended artefacts
 - → Eg configuration, temporary files, date-andtime stamps, deleted but recoverable data
- To examine and analyse them
- To derive, by the use of reverse engineering and testing, rules which describe their behaviour
- To produce convenient tools which enable these findings to be used during investigations

Aims of Digital Forensic Research

Motivations:

- To solve a problem within a particular investigation
- Geek Fun
- To develop a commercial product
- To improve one's academic standing
- To give Law Enforcement an advantage?



Hard-disk based:

- Recovered Files
 - → Deleted, modified files goes to intent
- MSOffice "properties" / metadata
 - → May show authorship, revisions

Internet cache

- → Shows patterns and history of Internet usage goes to intent, state of mind
- → Search engine requests
- OS set-up
 - Accounts, passwords, may show authorship
- System Registry (Windows)

- System Restore Points
- P2P software artefacts, database and logging files
- Chat software artefacts, database and logging files
- Exif Data
- LNK files
- Thumbnails thumbs.db etc
- Email headers
- Desktop indexing artefacts



- 3rd party logs:
- Web logs
- IDS logs
- Remote service anti-virus logs
- Telco logs, landline, cell, ISP
- ISP RADIUS logs

Aim is to audit activity, seek corroboration and hence identify specific individuals

Squid Logs

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Interception

- Who contacted whom, when, for how long – and what was said.
- Forensics: how do you do this practically and with integrity-checking?
- Law: how do you do this legally?
 - → Special case of UK s17 RIPA 2000 restrictions; but you can get similar results via hard-disk examination



Practical Investigations

- Multiple streams of evidence to build a detailed picture
- Corroboration from several weak streams



Forensic Research and IMSs

- Can we get more than was intended from the enabling technology?
- Can we get more than was intended from the Management System?
- Can we analyse the audit trails in unintended ways?
- Can we do so legally?



Data Protection Principles

Personal Data :

- 1. processed fairly and lawfully
- 2. only obtained for one or more specified and lawful purposes
- 3. adequate, relevant and not excessive
- 4. accurate and up to date
- 5. not kept longer than necessary
- 6. processed in accordance with rights of data subjects

Data Protection Principles

- 7. Appropriate measures against unauthorised and unlawful use
- 8. Non-transference outside EU

Exemptions: National Security, crime, taxation, health, education, social work, regulatory activity, journalism, research, history, statistics, legal proceedings



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Human Rights Tests

UDHR 1948

- Art 12: arbitrary interference with privacy
- Art 13: freedom of movement
- Art 8: effective remedies for violation of fundamental rights

Violation Tests

- Necessity
- Proportionality

Forensic Research and IMSs

- Can we get more than was intended from the enabling technology?
 Reveal identity?
 - Solution Contract Contract
- We can get warrants for one purpose but then use the data for others?



Forensics and Identity Management Systems

- Intended and Unintended Checking of Identity
- Intended:
 - → To grant access
 - → To grant a privilege
 - → To make a payment
- Unintended
 - → To place an individual at a particular location at a particular time
 - To create a log of activities from which behavioural patterns can be derived



Movement Trails







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Movement Trails

- Bank records
 → ATM usage
- Credit card records
- Retail store records
- CCTV
 - → Analogue, digital
- Telephone Records
 - → Fixed, Mobile
- (Future) Identity Card usage



LSE

Forensic Research and IMSs

- Can we get more than was intended from the Management System?
- Can we analyse the audit trails in unintended ways?
- Can we do so legally? If original application for a warrant was valid – how, and at what stage do the courts say that further exploration and aggregation becomes "ultra vires"?



Forensics and Identity Management Systems

Intended and Unintended Audit Trails

- → When was an identity used / presented?
- → Was it accepted / rejected?
- → For what activities was it used?
- → For how long are the records kept?
- → What constraints exist on usage and analysis?
- → What constraints are there on passing on to 3rd parties?
- How are courts to monitor situations where records are kept for too long and data analysed ultra vires?





FIDIS type 2 IMSs:

- Cell-site analysis
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition / Traffic Congestion Charging
- Radio-based traffic charging
- Oyster Cards
- Swipe cards for physical access control
- CCTV + facial recognition



FIDIS type 2 IMSs:

- Credit cards general and specialised: purchases plus locations
- Store Loyalty cards
- Library books taken out
- Medical databases
- Education databases
- Google logs

Broad-based ID cards:

- Leave a trail each time they are presented:
- Locations, movements
- Use of social and medical services



Understanding the Problem

- The everyday activities of Digital Forensics may expose activities – and hence potentially invade privacy – in ways never intended by designers of IMSs and law policy makers
- Practitioners in Digital Forensics do not necessarily set out to breach privacy – their aim is to aid law enforcement
 - → But the effect of their work may be to weaken privacy rights

Understanding the Problem

- Data obtained by LE without warrant remains unusable in court proceedings
- Data held by 3rd parties and then ceded to LE under warrant: provided original warrant is valid, 3rd parties may not be able to restrain subsequent use
- Data obtained by LE with a warrant but used ultra vires through technical ingenuity – courts may lack the understanding to forbid its use.
- Position of data aggregation by LE unclear but appears unprotected by courts



Remedies?

- First step is to describe the problem
- Can we frame precise laws?
- Do we grant judges discretion to exclude for "unfairness" or "abuse of process"?
- **????**





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