Unisys Security Research - Australia

Australians can do more to protect themselves against identity theft

Overview

1 in 5 Australians say they never destroy bank or credit card statements before throwing them into the garbage, 1 in 4 Australians say that they never read privacy policies and almost 1 in 3 use an easy to remember figure (eg birth date) when asked to provide a PIN.

The results are highlighted in the context of findings by the Unisys Security Index which show 53% of Australians are either extremely or very concerned about other people obtaining their credit or debit card details.

Despite this, it is evident that Australians are reasonably proactive in protecting their personal information.

Findings are as follows:

- 78% of Australians (or 12.2 million) say they always or sometimes destroy bank and credit card statements before placing them in the rubbish bin

- 75% of Australians (or 11.7 million) say they always or sometimes read the privacy policies of organisations they have dealings with

- 70% of Australians (or 10.9 million) say they never use an easy to remember figure such as their birthday, when asked to provide a PIN

Background

The Unisys Security Index includes provision for asking additional questions which sit outside the Index but which can be cross referenced against the results.

This question relating to the protection of personal information was in parallel with the December Unisys Security Index. 1200 people were surveyed by Newspoll nationally between the 3rd and 5th of November 2006.

Respondents were asked:

Thinking now about the things you may do to protect your personal information and identity. Please tell me whether you do each of the following always, sometimes or never:

1.   Before placing them in the bin, you shred or rip up bank statements, bills and other items containing personal information

2.   You read the privacy policies of organisations you have dealings with, such as banks, other companies or government departments

3.   When asked to provide a security PIN you use an easy to remember figure, such as your birthday

Contact Information

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