

Login | Sign up

Whitepapers | Reg Hardware | Channel Reg

Biting the hand that feeds IT



Hardware Software Music & Media Networks Security Public Sector Business Science Odds & Sods
Financial News Small Biz IT Director Tech Panel Business Applications

Search site

Print Post comment

Alert

Shell hit by massive data breach

Green hackers or angry ex-staff?

By [John Oates](#) • [Get more from this author](#)

Posted in [IT Director](#), 15th February 2010 09:20 GMT

[Free whitepaper – The ROI of data governance](#)

Shell has been hit by a massive data breach - the contact database for 176,000 staff and contractors at the firm has been copied and forwarded to lobbyists and activists opposed to the company.

John Donovan, an activist who received the database, said he had voluntarily destroyed the files. But he warned that other copies were available online.

The email supposedly comes from 176 "concerned staff" to highlight Shell's activities in Nigeria. The database is about six months old and could have been released by a recently laid off staff member, or there could really be a rogue campaign group within Shell.

Richard Wiseman, chief ethics and compliance officer at Royal Dutch Shell, wrote to staff last week after the breach emerged.

He said: "The Global Address List, containing contact information of everyone in Shell and some contractors, joint ventures and other third parties, has been downloaded without authorisation and distributed to some external parties. We do not know who did this. We are investigating and are raising this theft of information with the relevant data protection authorities."

The company played down the security implications of the loss - it is phone and email details rather than real-world addresses.

But if hackers have got access to Shell's systems then they might have more mischief planned.

The Information Commissioner's Office has launched a consultation on its new auditing powers, due to come into effect April 2010. The powers will allow the ICO to investigate organisations which it believes are failing to properly protect private data. ®

[Free whitepaper – The ROI of data governance](#)

READ MORE: [Nigeria](#) [Ico](#) [Database](#) [Royal Dutch Shell](#)

Share this article 11 comments | [Post a comment](#)

Rate this article 12 ratings

MOST READ MOST COMMENTED

- [Shell hit by massive data breach](#)
- [MoJ and police discipline Twitter sinners](#)
- [Ladies face 'glass cliff' after breaking 'glass ceiling'](#)
- [Bloated Office 2010 kicks dirt in face of old computers](#)
- [NHS Toolkit takedown will inconvenience docs, not patients](#)

I'M A TECHIE NOT AN ASSASSIN!



Brit IT guy's ID nicked by Dubai hit team

LATEST JOBS

Search all IT jobs

- | | |
|--|--|
| Health and Social Care Assessor
£15 - £20 per hour • England - South East | Centre Manager
GBP21000 to GBP25000 per annum • England - Midlands West |
| C++, Unix, Multithreading Real-Time Developer - London Investment Bank
Negotiable • | Infrastructure Solution Architect
£58000 - £65000 per annum + Excellent Benefits • England - South East |
| Architect
• England - Midlands West | Account Manager - Maidenhead
- £20K-£30K + OTE £60K
£20000 - £30000 per annum + OTE + Bens • England - Thames Valley |

Powered by **THE IT JOBBOARD.co.uk**

GOOGLE'S CHINA SYNDROME



They made us evil?

Related stories[NHS appraisal toolkit yanked offline](#) (10 February 2010)**Comment** [ISA chairman assures nation: Your data is safe](#) (10 February 2010)[DVLA makes £44m flogging drivers' details](#) (20 January 2010)[Government personal data handling 'better'](#) (19 January 2010)[Hackers pluck 8,300 customer logins from bank server](#) (12 January 2010)[Data breach howlers to get up to £500,000 fine](#) (12 January 2010)**Ads by Google****UK Data Protection Act**

Tape Based Stored Data Encryption, Watch our Instant Free Video Today!

www.SpectralLogic.com/Bluescale**Data Privacy Consultants**

European Privacy Partnership Training Audits Consultancy

www.privacypartnership.com**Free identity check**

Check if anyone has used your name to make an application for credit

www.experian.co.uk**Free identity fraud check**

Check if anyone has taken out credit in your name.

www.creditexpert.co.uk**Data Security Breaches**

Expanding Requirements of DLP. Watch the Webcast.

www.ca.com/gb**WHITEPAPERS****Intelligent Server Consolidation with System Center**

System Center delivers powerful capabilities to simplify, automate, and accelerate a server consolidation strategy.

**Populating a data quality scorecard with relevant metrics**

This white paper explores ways to qualify data control and measures to support the governance program.

**The total economic impact of Mimecast's Unified Email Management solution**

Mimecast commissioned Forrester Consulting to examine the total economic impact and potential return on investment (ROI) enterprises may realize by deploying its Unified Email Management solution.

**Server virtualization in context**

One of the hottest topics in the IT industry is virtualization, particularly in relation to the x86 servers that have so often proliferated to unmanageable levels.

Download a 30 day free trial now.

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

SPONSORED LINKS

- [Toshiba laptops with Intel® Core™2 Duo processor](#)
- [Hitachi IT Operations Analyzer: 30-day free trial](#)
- [Google Apps: See how much you could save](#)
- [Intel IT Galaxy UK Community - join the discussion](#)
- [Could you work smarter, not harder? IBM can help](#)
- [Virgin Media Business to shake up business telco market](#)
- [News: IBM Blade with Intel Xeon Processor](#)
- [Find the smartest route to a converged infrastructure](#)
- [Free shipping & 100% compatible Crucial memory upgrades](#)
- [How to triple your website traffic with Google Love](#)
- [The fastest most powerful iPhone yet is now available on Vodafone](#)
- [Collaborate and Communicate at UC Expo - 10-11 March 2010](#)
- [PEER 1 prepares for blast-off aboard Vulture 1](#)
- [Parasol - the UK's favourite umbrella company.](#)
- [Free shipping & 100% compatible Crucial memory upgrades](#)
- [See how NEC's unified communications put you in charge when it matters most](#)
- [Get more with Rackspace Hosting, experience award winning Fanatical Support!](#)
- [Free virtual SQL Server Training: Dynamic Management Views](#)
- [Upgrade your skills. Secure your job. Train Online for career success. Start now.](#)

DON'T MISS[Send us News Tips](#)[Week's Headlines](#)[Reg Archive](#)[Top 20 Stories](#)[Book Shop](#)

A few of the reasons to join El Reg

[Channel Register](#) | [Register Hardware](#)© Copyright 1998–2010 [Privacy](#) [Advertise with Us](#) [Company Info](#)