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Laptops on Foreign Travel (LOFT)

Are we still doing the right thing?

The Need Is Still Apparent

- DOE HQ has reached out to Sandia's LOFT programs for guidance on initiating their own, as they recognize the need
- Risk
 - Each year computing assets taken on foreign travel through LOFT trips are involved in security-related findings



NATION
China and Russia are using hacked data to target U.S. spies, officials say



Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, shown in Mountain View, Calif., says the military needs to boost its cyberdefenses. "We're not doing as well as we need to do in job one in cyber, which is defending our own networks," he said. (Justin Sullivan / Getty Images)

By Brian Bennett and W.J. Hennigan · Contact Reporters

AUGUST 31, 2015, 3:00 AM | REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

Foreign spy services, especially in China and Russia, are aggressively aggregating and cross-indexing hacked U.S. computer databases — including security clearance applications, airline records and medical insurance forms — to identify U.S. intelligence officers and agents, U.S. officials said.

At least one clandestine network of American engineers and scientists who provide technical assistance to U.S. undercover operatives and agents overseas has been compromised as a result, according to two U.S. officials.

The Obama administration has scrambled to boost cyberdefenses for federal agencies and crucial infrastructure as foreign-based attacks have penetrated government websites and email systems, social



Paris airport security went one step further than simply asking a security expert to power up her laptop — they requested she type in her password to decrypt her hard drive and log into the machine.

Katie Moussouris, chief policy officer at HackerOne, and best known as the woman behind Microsoft's Bug Bounty Program, was en route back to the US from the CCC hacking conference. She complied with the request in order not to miss her flight.

The computer never left her possession and the security agent never fully explained the request, according to Moussouris, and there's no question that HackerOne customers' vulnerability reports were exposed — no exploits were stored on the device.

Nonetheless, the incident at Charles de Gaulle airport has sparked a lively debate among privacy and security advocates. Moussouris has put together a blog post explaining her experience:

CDG airport personnel asked to search my bag, after I had cleared security, when I was about to board the flight. I had, in fact, already had my boarding pass checked by the gate attendant when a uniformed security agent diverted me to a small table, right before I was to enter the boarding tunnel.

The security agent at the gate had me pull out my laptop, turn it on, and further asked me to type in my password, which decrypted the full disk encryption of the drive, even after she saw that it did boot up...

It was clear there was a language barrier issue, but I was trying to show her that the login

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LAW & DISORDER / CIVILIZATION & DISCONTENTS

California city mayor relinquishes electronics and passwords to agents at SFO [Updated]

As feds battle over privacy, mayor compares the situation to North Korea.

By Nathan Mattheis · 08/31/2015 12:30pm PDT

Stockton, California Mayor Anthony R. Silva attended a recent mayor's conference in China, but his return trip took a bit longer than usual. At the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) **this week**, agents with the Department of Homeland Security detained Silva and confiscated his personal cell phone among other electronics. According to comments from the mayor, that may not even be the most alarming part.

"Unfortunately they were not willing or able to produce a search warrant or any court documents suggesting they had a legal right to take my property," Silva told **SFGate**. "In addition, they were persistent about requiring my passwords for all devices."

The mayor's attorney, Mark Reiche, told **SFGate** that Silva was not allowed to leave the airport without forfeiting his passwords. Reiche was not present for Silva's interaction with the DHS agents, either. The mayor was told he had "no right for a lawyer to be present" and that being a US citizen did not "entitle me to rights that I probably thought," according to the paper.

As of Friday, Silva had not yet received his property from the SFO detention. **SFGate** reports Reiche contacted the US Attorney's Office in Sacramento, but they would not comment on whether they still had the mayor's possessions. The paper also reached out to a spokesperson at US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, but that office also refused comment. (As has reached out to the mayor's office for any new information, and we'll update this story accordingly if we hear back.)

Authorities demanding access to password-protected devices has become a hot-button issue across the country, highlighted in particular by the **federal government's ongoing battle with Silicon Valley** over the lack of crypto backdoors in modern smartphones. At the end of last month, one US District Judge in Pennsylvania ruled that forcing a user to surrender their passwords was unconstitutional on **Fifth Amendment grounds**.

Evidently, Silva was well aware of the situation and only had his concerns heightened by first-hand experience. Taking to **SFGate**, he briefly compares the government battle on privacy to notorious dictatorships worldwide.

"I think the American people should be extremely concerned about their personal rights and privacy," Silva told the paper. "As I was being searched at the airport, there was a Latino couple to my left, and an Asian couple to my right also being aggressively searched. I briefly had to remind myself that this was not North Korea or Nazi Germany. This is the land of the free."

Update, 10/6: As noted by some commenters, the **local Stockton newspaper (The Record)** talked with two anonymous law enforcement sources that said the Silver detention may be linked to an ongoing probe. Neither the anonymous sources, the mayor, nor the paper mention what that probe might be. Within **The Record's** recent archive, the biggest incident involving Silva appears to be an **alleged intoxicated tourist** within a limousine from late 2014.

Silva also released a **statement** last week on the situation. The mayor's office still has not responded to a request for comment from **As. Technica**.

Teaming is necessary

- It takes a specialized team to provide a balanced approach between three primary, sometimes conflicting, areas of concern:

*Cyber Security

*Technical Support

*Export Compliance

Utilizing the LOFT program mitigates risks by:

- Reinforcing minimal data is stored/taken on foreign travel
- Verifying travelers computing assets are protected