



INTERNATIONAL newsletter

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in this issue

- 2 Privacy news worldwide:
EU data retention plans, DoubleClick
settlement, airline security, biometrics,
EU on workers' data, marketing in Mexico
- 6 RBC enhances privacy relationships
- 8 Accenture: A global approach
to data transfers
- 9 Commission reviews DP Directive
- 10 CNIL enters new era in France
- 12 Non-EU websites face liability
under EU data privacy laws
- 15 Microsoft settles with FTC
- 16 Building trust back into computing
- 18 OECD publishes security guidelines
- 19 Internet spam – the ongoing battle
- 20 Japan enacts anti-spam laws
- 22 Keeping pace with online privacy
- 23 Cyber attacks on the increase
- 24 Swiss surveillance law will hit ISPs
- 25 Israeli data protection legislation

PL&B Services

Subscription form 28

Editorial

This newsletter follows the successful 15th PL&B Annual International Conference in Cambridge. Participants replenished their intellectual stores and, perhaps equally important, enjoyed the chance to share ideas with informed colleagues in the fine atmosphere of Cambridge. Conference reports highlight perspectives from the European Commission and France (p.9-11), and organisations such as the Royal Bank of Canada (p.6) and Microsoft (p.16).

Two privacy staples – spam and cookies - continue in some cases to annoy and, in other cases, to raise thorny legal issues (p.19-21). “Spam” continues to be the unwelcome “guest” on various modes of communications, from e-mail to mobile phones. Organisations outside the EU that make use of cookies may find their activities falling within the jurisdiction of the EU Data Protection Directive (p.12).

We also report on how several Asian countries are monitoring e-mail and Internet activity in an attempt to censor communications and information flows (p.21). At the same time, organisations in Europe and the United States face obligations to retain Internet data traffic, and Finnish ISPs may soon be obliged to monitor the websites they host for hate messages (p.24).

Internet and computer network security concerns surface in several articles. Allegedly security-conscious governments still manage to lose scores, if not hundreds, of laptop computers (p.4-5). Other governments struggle with massive fraud in the issue of the “breeder” documents that form the basis of many prospective schemes for authenticating the identity of individuals (p.4). Almost in the same breath, the OECD issues new guidelines emphasising the need for a “culture of security” around information systems (p.18).

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