



INTERNATIONAL newsletter

ISSUE NO 66 FEBRUARY 2003

in this issue

- 2 Privacy news worldwide:
UNICE opposes workplace privacy
directive, Japan debates privacy law,
Toys 'R' Us settles privacy lawsuit
- 5 Sonera staff arrested for breach
of Finnish privacy laws
- 6 Spain imposes strict controls
on direct marketing
- 7 Avoiding online security breaches
- 8 The US "Total Information
Awareness" project
- 12 Luxembourg adopts privacy law
- 14 New EU DP law poses threat
to lenders and consumers
- 17 Data quality technology
raises privacy issues
- 18 German DP conference
debates privacy management
- 20 P3P – problems,
progress, potential
- 21 Australian privacy laws to
impact on property data
- 23 Book reviews

PL&B Services

Training 27

Subscription form 28

Editorial

The relationship between corporations, their customer databases and the governments that demand access to those databases for national security purposes presents a growing quandary. We explore this issue in detail, highlighting the proposed US "Total Information Awareness" project and its implications for trans-border data flows.

Finland has sent chills up and down corporate spines after four senior staff of an international telecoms provider were arrested for breach of privacy law. The Spanish Parliament intends to require "opt-in" consent before personal data collected from the electoral roll database is used by direct marketers, a move that will shield personal information but also raise the hackles of direct marketers.

We discuss Luxembourg's new data protection law and report concerns that EU plans to harmonise regulations in the consumer credit industry will hinder lenders and impose an impossible legislative timetable on member states.

On the technical side, we ask whether the Platform for Privacy Preferences Project (P3P) can become the standard for online privacy. And we report on an American study showing how careless computer owners – both corporate and private – are reselling computing equipment still loaded with sensitive personal information. We also review two thoughtful privacy treatises from opposite sides of the Atlantic – one by Denmark's Professor Dr Peter Blume and the other by Dr Ann Cavoukian, Ontario Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Eugene Oscapella, Associate Editor
PRIVACY LAWS & BUSINESS