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Headlines:

- Kenneth Clarke gives data protection speech, p.17
- Working Party gives strict Opinion on geolocation data, p.18
- Hustinx says Retention Directive is illegal, p.19

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Sony hacked to distraction

Sony has confirmed a third major attack on one of online services, again compromising the data of millions of users.

A group called Lulz Security claimed to have broken into Sonypictures.com "by a simple SQL injection". Passwords, home addresses and other personal data relating to several thousand of the accounts accessed was later released online.

The latest breach follows two other breaches occurring within the last month suffered by Sony customers worldwide. Between 17th and 19th April, the Sony PlayStation Network and Qriocity services were compromised by a hacker, which, according to a statement on Sony's website and blog published on 26th April, may have resulted in the loss of the personal data of over 70 million users worldwide.

The name, address, email address, birth date, PlayStation Network/ Qriocity passwords and login information for each user was open to access, along with their purchase history, billing address and password security answers. A statement from Sony said that although no evidence that credit card data were taken, it could not be ruled out as a possibility.

In response to the incident, Sony temporarily shut down its network services and enlisted the help of an independent security firm to investigate. Then, following a press conference, a statement was posted on the website setting out the security measures that Sony has implemented, including enhanced levels of data protection and encryption, a greater ability to detect software intrusions within the network, unauthorised

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Supreme Court rules that UK retains citizens' DNA illegally

The UK Supreme Court has ruled that the guidelines followed by police in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in relation to the retention of fingerprints and DNA samples is unlawful.

The ruling comes nearly three years after the European Court of Human Rights came to a similar conclusion in December 2008. The ECHR heard a case by two men from Sheffield who said that South Yorkshire Police had unfairly retained their DNA samples. The European judges were asked to rule on the Sheffield cases after judges at the House of Lords, (the former name of the Supreme Court), rejected the appeals, saying retention of DNA samples did not breach European human rights privacy laws.

The law on the retention of fingerprint and DNA data was originally governed by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which said that fingerprints and DNA samples taken in connection with the investigation of an offence should be destroyed if a person has been cleared of the offence.

However, the Justice and Police Act 2001 changed that law, and police were given the discretion to keep such samples.

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