



Protecting Our Lives Requires Protecting Our Information. Security Expert Advocates Making Personal Information A Property Right.

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CLEVELAND, June 27, 2006 (PR Web) - Andrew M. Colarik, PhD, a cyber security and terrorism expert, today announced that the key to preventing future security breaches involving personal information is to make our personal data a property right.

The recent breaches of our personal information by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Energy, and a host of other governmental, corporate and university organizations have put tens of millions of Americans at risk for identity theft. "In a globalized world, these breaches go far beyond identity theft. They put us and our families at risk from retaliation by foreign nations and extremist groups as a result of military operations and foreign policy; create the real possibility that our experts and/or their relatives may be kidnapped in order to extract technical skills in classified domains; and create a general environment of fear and uncertainty about our futures" said Dr. Colarik.

Ownership of our personal information is the only effective means of controlling its abuse. Over the past year, Dr. Colarik has been presenting the idea that a clear delineation between public and private data must be established. "What we need to do as a nation is to identify and agree on what data falls under our individual control, and through a stroke of a pen endow Americans with its property right" said Dr. Colarik. "This will provide all the needed legal framework to demand and enforce its complete protection" add Dr. Colarik.

In his latest book *Cyber Terrorism: Political and Economic Implications*, one of the seven of Dr. Colarik's initiatives calls for a clear delineation between public and private data, and can be obtained through a joint initiative involving business, government, privacy groups and American citizens. Data identified as public may be used by anyone with the right to do so, as in the case of copyrighted materials, and would fall under civil dispute procedures. Data classified as private (i.e. such as SS#, DOB, etc.) must be secured throughout the collection, usage, transmission, and deletion processes. Security of this data would fall to the barrowing organization, and its collection and use would be restricted. Civil and criminal penalties would occur in the event of a disclosure breach.

Such a fundamental change in the ownership of our personal information would change the way software manufacturers produce their products; transform how organizations view their fiduciary responsibilities, and effectively create a shelf-life for our personal information. "Organizations choose to collect and retain our personal information. They can choose not to" stated Dr. Colarik. He is calling on government legislators, businesses, the media, and concerned citizens to begin protecting the public from the needless exposure of our personal information.

About the Author: Dr. Colarik is the owner of AndrewColarik.com, which provides companies with information security consulting services. Dr. Colarik's company performs system evaluations, security audits and security awareness training in addition to conducting research on the latest technology developments. He has established numerous business partnerships to provide systems support, maintenance, and development capabilities for his clients. Through his tireless public security awareness campaign, Dr. Colarik has provided the media, business executives, law enforcement, and individuals with insight as to how to protect ourselves in the event that we are in the target zone.

For more information on this plan, please contact Dr. Colarik at (330) 220-8355.