



The Krypton Edge

November 2006

Volume 1, Number 1



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A scary and classic example of not following this rule is the recent massive loss of personal information from the Veterans' Administration. How did this happen? Well, an employee took a laptop home to work on a few files -- sounds reasonable enough. But if the employee only needed a few files, then why was the laptop loaded up with twenty-six million patient records? If the VA had been paying attention to Least Required Access, that massive breach might have only affected a few people!

And if that's not compelling enough, consider the numbers on another recent case: An employee of a hospital collection agency lost a few disks that he had in his computer bag, [compromising the names and social security numbers of 260,000 hospital patients](#). (Why exactly did he need to have 260,000 records on his person?) Now the hospital and agency face up to \$5,000 *per person* in penalties. Think how much less devastating that loss would have been if this business had a system in place to provide access to only the records that an employee needed! (Even better, they should have implemented the other basic security measures of passwording and secure storage, but we'll get into those in another issue!)

The Scoop on FACTA

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...If you have any questions about FACTA or other regulations, or would like to hear more about how our company can help yours to get and stay on top of the changing informational climate, make sure to check out the information on our website, or contact us however you find convenient. Thanks and have a wonderful month!



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