

Identity Theft Project

Measurement • Management • Policy • Tools

Newsletter Issue 1, March 2006

Dear ORNEC Identity Theft Research Project participant,

Welcome to the first issue of the IDT newsletter. This is one of a number of communications channels that we will establish to help with the exchange of information and extraction of value from this multi-faceted program. I expect that, as with most research projects, email will be the principal communications medium between members of the IDT project who are working closely together in the academic, private and public sectors. However, this project is unique in its scope and opportunity for discovery and this newsletter will provide a more holistic view of the program and serve to broadcast information that the program participants consider to be of general interest. For example, notice of the several workshops we will be conducting.

The first workshop is being planned as a one day session at **McMaster on Tuesday April 18** running from approximately 10:00 am to 4:00pm. The program will include a detailed review of project progress and objectives as well as an opportunity for the private and public sector participants to discuss their needs, expectations and opportunities for collaboration. Details will follow shortly. Scheduling of these events is obviously a challenge. We still have a couple of days to shift the facility time so if there is a strong preference for the Wednesday rather than the Tuesday please let me know at once.

In this inaugural newsletter I have included a number of links to web pages related to our research team. These pages contain contact information and summaries of research and activity. I strongly recommend browsing through these links to

understand the depth and breadth of the team we have assembled and perhaps to trigger other points of engagement.

I also intend to include a short section in each newsletter with recent newsworthy events in the area of identity theft and related fraud as well as notice of seminars and conferences. These links will migrate to the website and updated. As this project generates research papers and thesis I will include information about as many of these as possible. I will thank you in advance for bringing items to my attention at crawhall@ornec.ca.

From the administrative perspective a lot of activity has followed from the decisions of the Steering Committee last November. Funding has been secured, contracts signed, staff and students engaged and approval received from the Ministry. I would like to thank all of you who have dealt with the myriad of details necessary to get this moving for your time and perseverance.

Each of the prime investigators, Norm Archer for [Defining and Measuring Identity Theft](#); Yufei Yuan for [Management Approaches to Combating Identity Theft](#); Philippa Lawson for [Legal & Policy Approaches to Identity Theft](#) and Ali Miri for [Technical Tools to Address Identity Theft](#), has provided preliminary information below around activities in their project. More comprehensive details will be available at the April workshop and in the subsequent newsletters. Over the next months I hope to feature their work and that of their colleagues as well as other participants in the project in this newsletter so that everyone can become better acquainted with the skills and knowledge that we have assembled to address this challenging topic.

Defining and Measuring Identity Theft

Research Team:

[Dr. Norm Archer](#), Professor Emeritus, Business, McMaster (Principal Investigator)

[Dr. Milena Head](#), Assoc. Prof. & Assoc. Dean, Business, McMaster

[Dr. Ken Deal](#), Assoc. Prof. & Area Chair, Business McMaster

[Dr. Yolande Chan](#), ([faculty index](#)) Professor, Queen's – [The Surveillance Project](#)

[Dr. Vinod Kumar](#), Prof. & Director, Business, Carleton

[Dr. Uma Kumar](#) ([faculty index](#)), Professor, Business, Carleton

Project Status:

Common agreement on a definition of identity theft and the terminology is essential in the area of ID Theft. Dr. Susan Sproule, a postdoctoral fellow working on this project, has completed a literature review and prepared a discussion paper to present at the April workshop. This discussion paper will be sent to all of the meeting invitees, and is available on request from sprouls@mcmaster.ca. These definitions, once established, will also be used in the development of a national Canadian consumer survey later this year to establish the current levels of various types of identity theft and fraud, and consumer perceptions of their threats to individuals and society in general. We will undertake to link the findings of our survey to other existing surveys, but this will be a challenge because of the current lack of standard definitions for identity theft.

Susan has also identified a number of studies that offer the best opportunities for data comparison in the “measuring” part of our research. She is investigating the possibilities of creating a shared bibliography where the various reports and papers

we have found in our literature reviews can be accumulated, indexed and shared.

At Queens University, Dr. Yolande Chan has been studying exploratory case studies that look at instances of illegal data access within corporations. She will be reporting briefly on her study in a future issue of this report.

Management Approaches to Combating Identity Theft

Research Team:

[Dr. Yufei Yuan](#), Prof & Wayne C. Fox Chair, Business, McMaster (Principal Investigator)

[Dr. Khaled Hassanein](#), Assoc. Prof., Business, McMaster, Director [MeRC](#)

[Dr. Milena Head](#), Assoc. Prof, Assoc. Dean, McMaster

[Dr. Vinod Kumar](#), Professor, Business, Carleton

[Dr. Uma Kumar](#), Prof., Business, Carleton

[Dr. Shaobo Ji](#), ([faculty index](#))Asst. Prof., Business Carleton



Recent Events:

Dr. Yuan recently presented at the Society of Internet Professionals Panel Discussion on Protection from Identity Theft. For details of this event and access to recordings please refer to

<http://www.sipgroup.org/symposiums/identity/index.htm>

Legal & Policy Approaches to Identity Theft

Research Team:

[Philippa Lawson](#), Executive Director [CIPPIC](#) (Principal Investigator)

[Dr. Robert Biddle](#), Prof. Arts & Soc. Sciences, Carleton

[Jennifer Chandler](#), Asst. Prof. Common Law,
Ottawa

[Dr. Elizabeth Judge](#), Asst. Prof. Common Law,
Ottawa

[Dr. Valerie Steeves](#), Asst. Prof. Criminology,
Ottawa

Wendy Parkes wparkes@barexpress.net

Project Status:

Research by the legal/policy research group is underway with literature reviews, media scans, and other preliminary investigations. CIPPIC has hired a part-time senior research associate, Wendy Parkes, to conduct its research for this project, and is in the process of hiring a student research assistant. Other uOttawa researchers have either hired students or are in the process of doing so. The Carleton group is awaiting funds from ORNEC before hiring. CIPPIC has contacted private and public sector partners and is establishing an Advisory Committee.

Technical Tools To Address Identity

Research Team

[Dr. Ali Miri](#), Assoc. Prof., SITE, Ottawa, (Principal Investigator), [Computational Laboratory in Coding and Cryptography \(CLiCC\)](#)

[Dr. Abdulmotaleb El Saddik](#), Assoc. Prof., SITE,
Ottawa

[Dr. Andrew Adler](#), Asst. Prof., SITE, Ottawa

[Dr. Liam Peyton](#), Asst. Prof., SITE, Ottawa

[Dr. Thomas Tran](#), Asst. Prof., SITE, Ottawa

[Dr. Paul van Oorschot](#), Prof. Carleton, [Digital Security Group](#)

Research Status:

Working closely with ORNEC IDT Steering Committee members Mike Gurski (Bell Canada) and Hindal Mirza, Drs Miri and El Saddik have developed a significantly more detailed research plan that addresses a number of the issues brought

up in the Steering Committee meeting. In addition the research plan has been reviewed by a third party expert panel and a business assessment has also been developed. The successful completion of this exercise has ensured the financial support of both Bell and CITO.

Identity Theft In the News

- [Microsoft, UofT, Bell team up on privacy – March 15, 2006](#)
- [Ottawa Police Break Up Major Identity Theft Scam – March 9, 2006](#)
- [Cops Break Up Identity Theft Duo](#)
- [FTC Releases Top 10 Consumer Fraud Complaint Categories](#)
- [Kids' ID Theft: Growing Problem – Jan 16, 2006](#)
- [CIPPIC News](#)

Conferences & Seminars

[MITACS Digital Security Seminar Series at Carleton](#)

[The Future of Privacy: Business & Technology Perspectives – Mike Gurski, March 2005 \(Video\)](#)

Distribution of Newsletter etc.

This newsletter is distributed using the “blind cc” email feature. It is intended for the use of participants in the ORNEC Identity Theft project. It is not for public posting. The distribution list includes the academic, public and private members of the IDT project including the Steering Committee and the research groups, the ORNEC Scientific & Operating committee, the Board of Directors and the administrative support of the program within the various institutions. Members are free to distribute the newsletter to others within their organizations. For additions or deletions to the distribution list please reply to crawhall@ornec.ca or admin@ornec.ca . Similarly if anyone has difficulty with Word please let me know and I will circulate a pdf. I have added a read receipt this time

only incase the large mailing list triggers SPAM
filters in your IT system. – Robert Crawhall