

New Metadata Risk Website

Workshare, a British IT company, is sponsoring a public benefit website regarding the Metadata risks in electronic documents. The new website, located at <http://www.metadatarisk.org>, contains links to useful information about Metadata and news articles about Metadata exposure incidents. Here is an excerpt from one such incident from in the Australian IT News.

“MSWord's track-changes function was used to reveal that Mr Latham had dropped a promise to apologise to Aborigines, and had removed a pledge to cut ‘higher marginal tax rates’. Particularly embarrassing were revelations of changes made to the document by the user CREANS - believed to be a staffer in deposed Labor leader Simon Crean's office.”

While this new website does contain lots of useful information for Government security officers, it only address the well-known Metadata issues. The less well known and deeply entrenched problems cited by SRS Technologies in our reports and presentations are not addressed.

Workshare sells a software product called ‘Protect’ that is supposed to remove Metadata from Microsoft Office files. This product does not meet Government standards for processing files that could contain National Security Information.

SRS Technologies has designed a software product that does meet Government standards. This new product will begin Beta testing shortly, and should be available to the Government within six months. For more information about SRS security solutions, please contact Ron Hackett at rhackett@stg.srs.com.

Please feel free to forward this message to other Government personnel you believe would benefit from this information.

This newsletter is dedicated to raising awareness about the Desktop Publishing Threat to Information Security and to disseminating information that will help mitigate these risks. Our newsletter is published aperiodically when there is news to report. We will not clutter your inbox with idle chatter when there is nothing significant or useful to say. This newsletter is available free of charge to Government personnel and to certain contractors responsible for the generation and protection of National Security Information. Contractor subscriptions are at the discretion of SRS Technologies.

Suggestions and comments are always welcome. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please e-mail us and we will gladly remove you from the list. All EDS related correspondence should be sent to rhackett@stg.srs.com.

For a list of articles and information regarding EDS, please visit our web page: <http://www.stg.srs.com/eds>.

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SRS Technologies
Systems Technology Group
500 Discovery Drive
Huntsville, AL 35806

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