

Copy-and-Paste Reveals Classified U.S. Documents

Many people mistakenly believe that porting a document to Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF) will sanitize a document. Once again, the U. S. Government is learning that lesson the hard way. The U. S. commission investigating the death of Nicola Calipari, the Italian intelligence agent that rescued the kidnapped journalist Giuliana Sgrenaas, discovered this fact when a redacted version of the commission's report was published to the Internet. About a third of the report had been redacted, but an Italian newspaper had no trouble recovering the redacted information. Using a simple cut-and-paste technique, they were able to recover all of the hidden text. The full, uncensored text of that report is not published on the Internet.

The Register

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/05/03/military_report_secrets/

Slashdot

<http://it.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/05/01/1314216&tid=172&tid=103>

Government Computer News (GCN)

http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/35729-1.html

BBC News

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4504589.stm>

SRS Document Detective to Add PDF Review Scanner

SRS Technologies will be adding Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF) capability to our Document Detective electronic document security scanner software. The upgrade should be available before the end of the year, and it will be a free upgrade for anyone with a current Document Detective version 1 license. The software currently handles Microsoft Office formats like, Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Rich Text Format (RTF) files. In addition, Document Detective also scans HTML, XML and text files. For more information about Document Detective, please visit <http://www.stg.srs.com/eds/docdet>. For background information on the Electronic Document Security threat, which includes articles on significant incidents associated with hidden data in electronic documents, please visit <http://www.stg.srs.com/eds>. You can also contact Ron Hackett for technical information or to purchase Document Detective at (256) 971-7851 or 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.

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