

Master in Management – Option Services Science
Social and Legal Issues in Informatics

In Class Test: 21st December 2010

Location: B301/302 (Battelle)
Time: 10h30 – 12h30 (120 min)

Subject: Essay on Organisations Handling Personal Data

Organisations (governments, business) handling individuals (citizens, customers) data have responsibilities towards this data. However, loss of personal data by large organisations is recognised as a major problem. It exposes the individuals whose data is lost to a variety of risks. Data can be compromised in many ways: loss of data while in transit between IT sites, or by active theft from computers from within an organisation.

In this essay you are asked to discuss:

1. What is the current liability and responsibility of organisations towards the data they hold? What does the law say in this respect?
2. What risks are individuals exposed to if their data is lost or stolen and what can they do to minimise the risks, recognising that they may or may not know of the data loss?
3. If you were a consultant asked to advise the Swiss or an EU government, what advice would you give regarding this issue and what steps should that government take to protect its citizens?

Rules:

This in-class test accounts for **10%**.

This is a **closed book** in-class test: no material is allowed during the test (no books, no slides, no lectures notes, no personal notes, etc.).

The question is released three weeks prior the test so that students can make necessary research work in order to prepare their essay that will be written during the in-class test session.

Students are strongly advised to carefully consider the following points when preparing and writing their essay:

- Clarity of arguments;
- Evidence (examples);
- Quality of text.

Students are reminded that plagiarism is strictly forbidden.