



Connecticut State University System NEWS RELEASE

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Connecticut State University System Notifies Students Affected by Theft of Vendor Computer Containing Some Student Data from 2001-2004

A laptop computer stolen from an employee of SunGard Higher Education (SunGard) has caused the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) to notify just over 3,400 students who attended Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut State Universities between September 2001 and December 2004 that personally identifiable information was included on the computer, urging them to take steps to prevent the possibility of identity theft.

SunGard has informed CSUS that a report was filed with law enforcement authorities regarding the March 13, 2008 theft, and there is no indication that the computer was stolen with any awareness of the data contained on it. The data was originally provided to SunGard, provider of the System's student data management software, in order for the company to perform various services for CSUS, but was retained longer than necessary to perform these services.

CSUS was notified on April 9, 2008 by SunGard that a laptop computer owned by the company and in the possession of one of its employees had been stolen. CSUS was further informed that SunGard had tentatively determined that the computer, although password protected, contained unencrypted files with personally identifiable data, including names and Social Security numbers, for certain individuals who attended the four universities during those years.

Based on the information provided by SunGard, CSUS verified on April 10, 2008 that CSUS student information had been retained on the SunGard computer. Affected individuals were notified by letter on April 14. CSUS has also made appropriate authorities in Connecticut aware of the information conveyed by SunGard.

"The amount of time that passed between the theft of the laptop and the notification of the CSUS system and affected students is simply unacceptable," Governor M. Jodi Rell said. "In addition, this data should have been encrypted from the start and removed from all data storage the minute it was no longer needed for business purposes. This incident should serve as a reminder to every state agency – and every vendor with whom they do business – that in Connecticut our expectations regarding the security of personal data are high and uncompromising."

"SunGard suppressed the truth for too long – failing inexplicably and inexcusably to promptly disclose a significant security breach that exposes thousands of students to identity theft," said Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. "My office is working vigorously

to ensure that every individual at risk receives strong protections and that SunGard is held accountable. We are demanding an explanation for why SunGard's laptop had this confidential personal information concerning 3,500 students, why it was taken to New York, and why SunGard dangerously delayed notifying the state. State contractors entrusted with sensitive information have a legal and moral duty to protect private data, prevent security breaches and immediately report breaches. We appreciate the initiative and cooperation of Chancellor Carter in responding to this security breach."

The following steps have been taken:

- A dedicated webpage, containing updated information, has been created and may be accessed at www.sungardhe.com/laptoptheft;
- A help desk has been established with a toll-free number, (866) 520-2408, to respond to questions by affected individuals;
- Credit monitoring will be provided, at no cost to the affected individuals, for a period of one year.

"We view this as a very serious manner, and have expressed our concerns directly to SunGard from the moment we were informed, said CSUS Board of Trustees Chair Lawrence D. McHugh. "We moved expeditiously to provide notification to students so that they can take appropriate steps to ensure the integrity of their credit history," said CSUS Chancellor David Carter. "We will continue to work with authorities in Connecticut to pursue strategies that can assist our students. That remains our priority."

Affected individual may also wish to consider contacting one of the three national credit-reporting agencies listed below, each of which as an automated phone-in fraud alert process, and request that their file be flagged with a fraud alert. Fraud alerts can help prevent financial accounts being opened in an individual's name by someone other than that individual. Each company in receipt of a fraud alert will notify the other two credit-reporting agencies. All three agencies will then separately mail credit reports to the individual at no cost. Details are available at:

- Equifax: 800-525-6285, www.equifax.com
- Experian: 888-397-3742, www.experian.com
- TransUnion: 800-680-7289, www.transunion.com

The Connecticut State University System, with more than 35,000 students, is Connecticut's largest university system, and includes Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut state universities.