

Summary: Investigation of IBC Computer Intrusion

Report Date: December 15, 2015

OIG investigated allegations that an unknown individual(s) remotely logged into a Department of the Interior (DOI) Interior Business Center (IBC) system administrator's computer located in Sierra Vista, AZ. The intruder(s) remotely accessed another IBC employee's account and gained access to an unknown number of personnel documents. (At the time of the initial complaint, IBC was known as the National Business Center.

We found that Dana Beach, a retired IBC IT specialist, accessed the IBC network without authorization seven times after her retirement. Beach gained access by using a current system administrator's password. The system administrator, a former colleague, had previously shared his password with her. We also found that Beach, while still employed by IBC, exceeded her authorization by accessing stored communications 17 times. Beach told us she accessed the network to read correspondence amongst her colleagues, who she felt were "targeting her."

We also found that the system administrator shared his password with Beach on a regular basis and maintained a list of IBC employees' passwords in violation of DOI policy. We could not determine that the system administrator had any knowledge of the IT specialist's computer intrusions.

On August 4, 2015, Beach pleaded guilty to one charge of computer intrusion, a misdemeanor, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. The court ordered restitution and 2 years of probation. Beach was also prohibited from Federal employment and debarred from participating in Federal contracting until October 13, 2018. The system administrator was issued a letter of reprimand for sharing his administrative password.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued to IBC. This summary was posted to the web on April 21, 2016.

