COMPUTER ABUSE AND DATA RECOVERY ACT

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Rebecca Chavez-Houck

Senate Sponsor: Todd Weiler

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill enacts provisions related to unauthorized access to information technology.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- provides civil penalties for an individual who, without authorization from a protected computer's owner:
  - obtains information from the protected computer;
  - causes the transmission of a program, code, or command to the protected computer; or
  - traffics in a technological access barrier that could be used to access the protected computer;
- defines terms; and
- provides that the prevailing party in a civil action under this act is entitled to attorney fees.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section 63D-3-101 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 3. UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Part 1. Computer Abuse and Data Recovery Act

63D-3-101. Title.

(1) This chapter is known as "Unauthorized Access to Information Technology."

(2) This part is known as "Computer Abuse and Data Recovery Act."

Section 2. Section 63D-3-102 is enacted to read:

63D-3-102. Definitions.

As used in this part, the term:

(1) "Authorized user" means, for a protected computer:

(a) the protected computer's owner; or

(b) an individual who has permission to access the protected computer under Section 63D-3-103.

(2) (a) "Computer" means an electronic, magnetic, optical, electrochemical, or other high-speed data processing device that performs logical, arithmetic, or storage functions.

(b) "Computer" includes any data storage device, data storage facility, or communications facility that is directly related to or that operates in conjunction with the device described in Subsection (2)(a).

(3) (a) "Damage" means, for a protected computer's owner, the cost associated with an individual's unauthorized access to information stored on a protected computer.

(b) "Damage" includes:

(i) the cost of repairing or restoring a protected computer;

(ii) economic damages;
(iii) consequential damages, including interruption of service; and
(iv) profit by the individual from the unauthorized access to the protected computer.
(4) "Harm" means any impairment to the integrity, access, or availability of:
(a) data;
(b) a program;
(c) a system; or
(d) information.
(5) "Owner" means a person who:
(a) owns or leases a protected computer; or
(b) owns the information stored in a protected computer.
(6) (a) "Protected computer" means a computer that:
(i) is used in connection with the operation of a business, state government entity, or political subdivision; and
(ii) requires a technological access barrier for an individual to access the computer.
(b) "Protected computer" does not include a computer that an individual can access using a technological access barrier that does not, to a reasonable degree of security, effectively control access to the information stored in the computer.
(7) "Technological access barrier" means a password, security code, token, key fob, access device, or other digital security measure.
(8) "Traffic" means to sell, purchase, or deliver.
(9) "Unauthorized user" means an individual who, for a protected computer:
(a) is not an authorized user of the protected computer; and
(b) accesses the protected computer by:
(i) obtaining, without an authorized user's permission, the authorized user's technological access barrier; or
(ii) circumventing, without the permission of the protected computer's owner, a technological access barrier on the protected computer.
Section 3. Section 63D-3-103 is enacted to read:
63D-3-103. Permission to access a protected computer -- Revocation.
(1) Subject to Subsections (2) and (3), an individual has permission to access a protected computer if:
(a) the individual is a director, officer, employee, agent, or contractor from the protected computer's owner; and

(b) the protected computer's owner gave the individual express permission to access the protected computer through a technological access barrier.

(2) If a protected computer's owner gives an individual permission to access the protected computer, the permission is valid only to the extent or for the specific purpose the protected computer's owner authorizes.

(3) An individual's permission to access a protected computer is revoked if:

(a) the protected computer's owner expressly revokes the individual's permission to access the protected computer; or

(b) the individual ceases to be a director, officer, employee, agent, or contractor of the protected computer's owner.

Section 4. Section 63D-3-104 is enacted to read:

63D-3-104. Prohibited acts.

(1) An unauthorized user of a protected computer may not, knowingly and with intent to cause harm or damage:

(a) obtain information from the protected computer and, as a result, cause harm or damage;

(b) cause the transmission of a program, code, or command to the protected computer, and, as a result of the transmission, cause harm or loss; or

(c) traffic in any technological access barrier that an unauthorized user could use to access the protected computer.

(2) An individual who violates Subsection (1) is liable to a protected computer's owner in a civil action for the remedies described in Section 63D-3-105.

Section 5. Section 63D-3-105 is enacted to read:

63D-3-105. Remedies.

(1) A person who brings a civil action against an individual for a violation of Section 63D-3-104 may:

(a) recover actual damages, including the person's:

(i) lost profits;

(ii) economic damages; and
(iii) the reasonable cost of remediation efforts related to the violation;
(b) recover consequential damages, including for interruption of service;
(c) recover, from the individual, the individual's profit obtained through trafficking in anything obtained by the individual through the violation;
(d) obtain injunctive or other equitable relief to prevent a future violation of Section 63D-3-104; and
(e) recover anything the individual obtained through the violation, including:
(i) misappropriated information or code;
(ii) a misappropriated program; and
(iii) any copies of the information, code, or program described in Subsections (1)(e)(i) and (1)(e)(ii).

(2) A court shall award reasonable attorney fees to the prevailing party in any action arising under this part.
(3) The remedies available for a violation of Section 63D-3-104 are in addition to remedies otherwise available for the same conduct under federal or state law.
(4) A person may not file a civil action under Section 63D-3-104 later than three years after the day on which:
(a) the violation occurred; or
(b) (i) the person discovers the violation; or
(ii) the person should have discovered the violation if the person acted with reasonable diligence to discover the violation.

Section 6. Section 63D-3-106 is enacted to read:

63D-3-106. Exclusions.
(1) This section does not prohibit a lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence activity of a law enforcement agency, regulatory agency, or political subdivision of this state, another state, the United States, or a foreign country.
(2) This part does not apply to a provider of:
(a) an interactive computer service as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 230(f); or
(b) an information service as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 153.
Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel